

(12) United States Patent

Yoo et al.

(54) HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY NEUTRALIZING VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR AND USE THEREOF

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(73) Assignee: **PHARMABCINE INC.**, Daejeon (KR)

Daejeon (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

Kim, Daejeon (KR); Sang-Seok Koh,

U.S.C. 154(b) by 87 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 14/204,295

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(65)**Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

Division of application No. 12/664,226, filed as application No. PCT/KR2007/003077 on Jun. 26, 2007, now Pat. No. 9,150,650.

US 9,249,219 B2 (10) **Patent No.:**

(45) **Date of Patent:**

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(52)U.S. Cl.

..... C07K 16/2863 (2013.01); C07K 16/30 CPC (2013.01); C07K 16/3023 (2013.01); C07K 16/3046 (2013.01); G01N 33/574 (2013.01); A61K 2039/505 (2013.01); C07K 2316/96 (2013.01); C07K 2317/21 (2013.01); C07K 2317/565 (2013.01); C07K 2317/622 (2013.01); C07K 2317/73 (2013.01); C07K 2317/76 (2013.01); C07K 2317/92 (2013.01); C07K 2319/00 (2013.01)

(58) Field of Classification Search

See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Brad Duffy (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm - Kile Park Reed & Houtteman PLLC

(57)ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to human monoclonal antibodies neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor and the use thereof. More specifically, relates to human ScFv molecules neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, and a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis and a composition for treating cancer, which contain the human ScFv molecules. The disclosed monoclonal antibody neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor shows excellent neutralizing ability in living cells, compared to that of a commercially available antibody against vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, and shows the ability to neutralize vascular endothelial growth factor receptor not only in humans, but also in mice and rats. Thus, the monoclonal antibody will be useful in anticancer studies and will be highly effective in cancer treatment.

6 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1

Feb. 2, 2016

MESKVLLAVA LWICVETRAA SVGLPSVSLD LPRLSIQKDI LTIKANTTLQ Signal ECD 1 ITCRGQRDLD WLWPMNQSGS EQRVEVTECS DGLFCKTLTI PKVIGNDTGA YKCFYRETDI. ASVIYVYVQD YRSPFIASVS DQHGVVYITE NKNKTVVIPC ECD 2 LGSISNLNVS LCARYPERRE VPDGNRISWD SKKGFTIPSY MISYAGMVFC eakindesyq simyivvvvg yriydvvlsp shgielsvge klvlnctart **ECD 3** ELNYGIDFNW EYPSSKHOHK KLVNRDLKTQ SGSEMKKFLS TLTIDGYTRS DQGLYTCAAS SGLMTKKNST FVRVHEKASS GLVPRGSDKT HTCPPCPAPE LIGGPSVFLF PPKPKDTLMI SRTPEVTCVV VDVSHEDPEV KFNWYVDGVE VHNAKTKPRE EQYNSTYRVV SVLTVLHQDW LNGKEYKCKV SNKALPAPIE KTISKAKOQP REPOVYTLPP SRDELTKNOV SLTCLVKGFY PSDIAVEWES NGQPENNYKT TPPVLDSDGS FFLYSKLTVD KSRWQQGNVF SCSVMHEALH NHYTOKSLSL SPGKEOKLIS EEDL Myc tag

FIG. 2

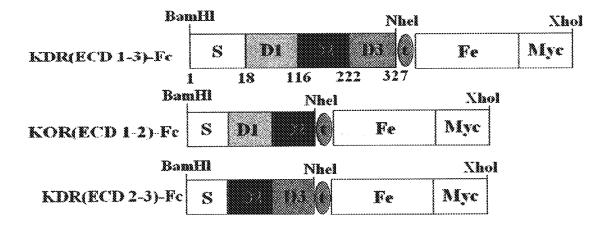
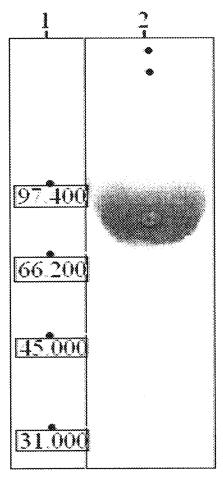


FIG. 3



KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc

FIG. 4

anti-KDR phage competition assay

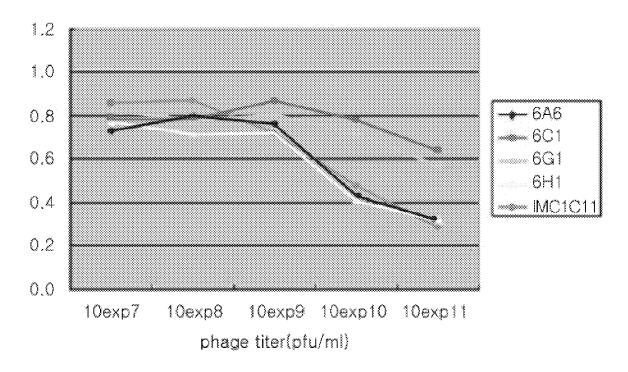


FIG. 5

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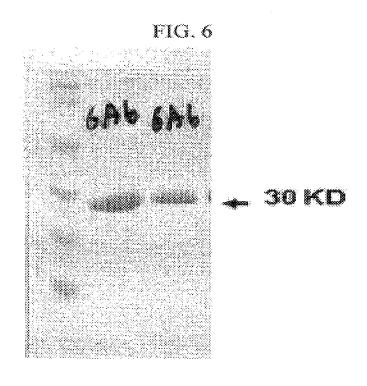


FIG. 7

anti-KDR ScFv competition assay

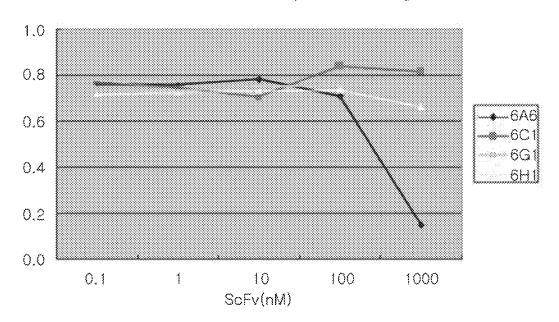


FIG. 8 epitope mapping

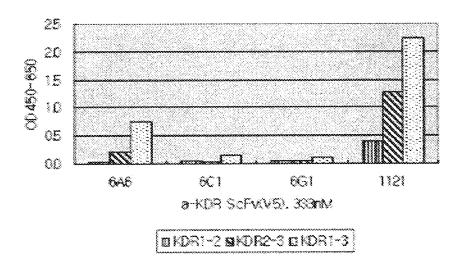
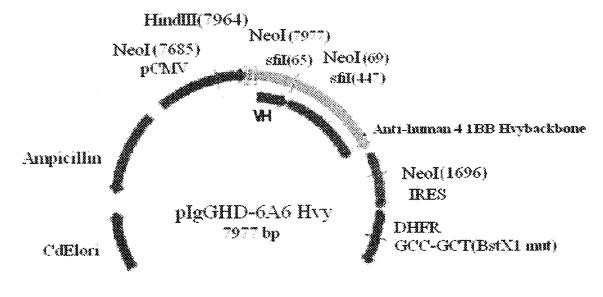
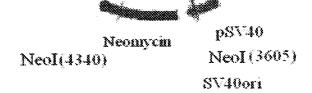
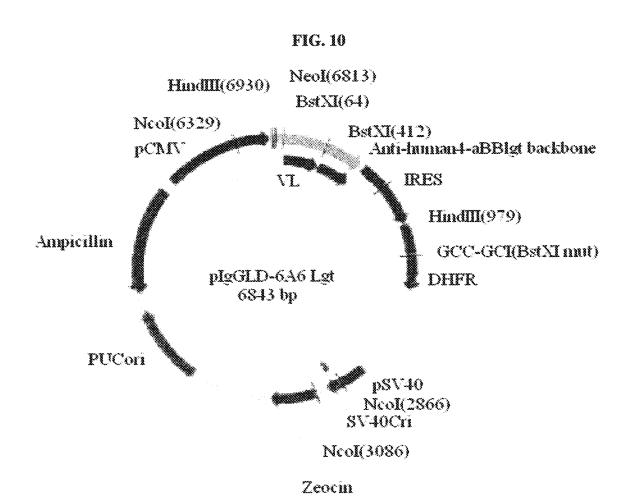


FIG. 9







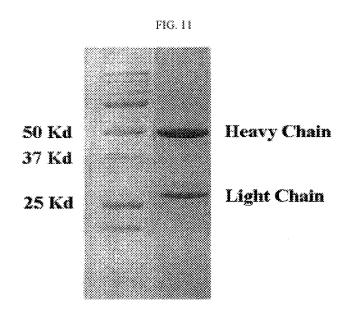


FIG. 12

Competition of a-KDR lgG

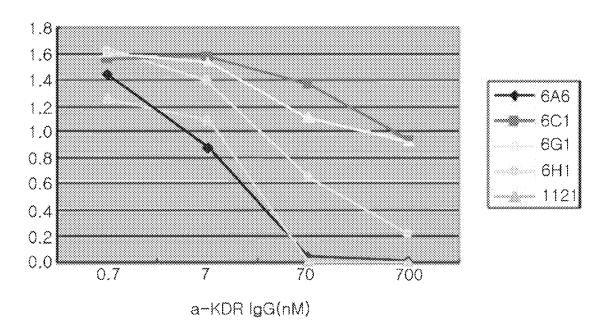


FIG. 13

Competition assay of 6A6 IgC

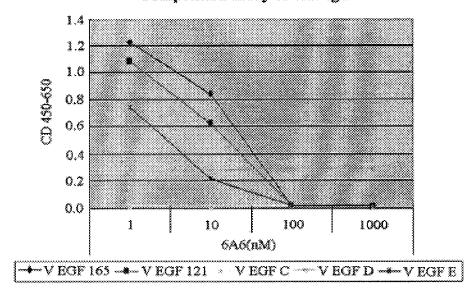


FIG. 14

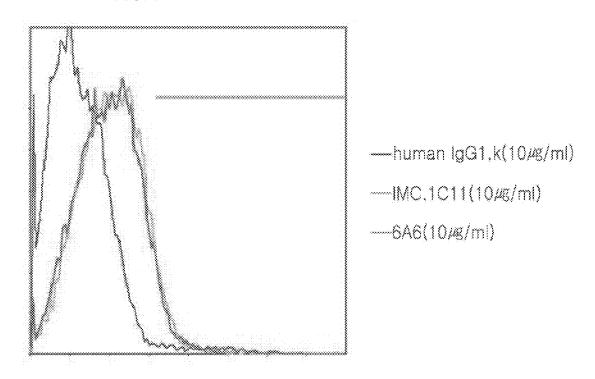


FIG. 15 **WR expression in HIVE**C

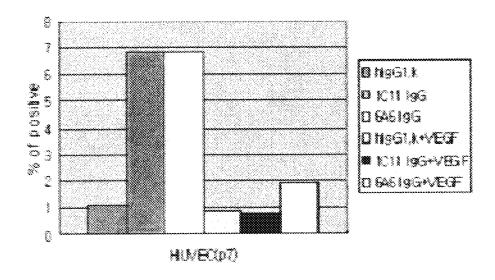


FIG. 16

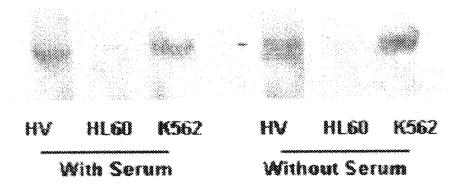


FIG. 17

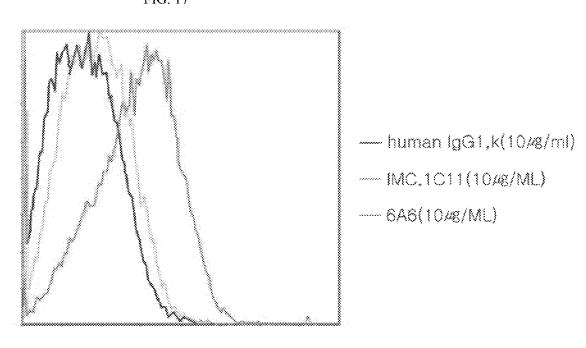


FIG. 18

KDR ecpression and competition

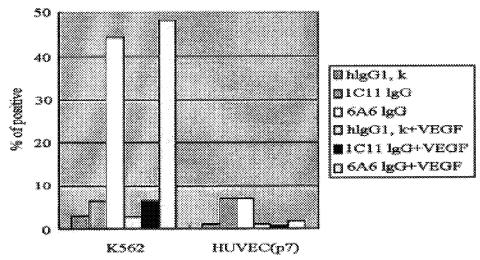


FIG. 19

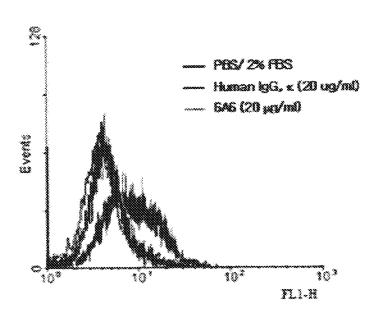


FIG. 20 HUVEC-proliferation inhibition

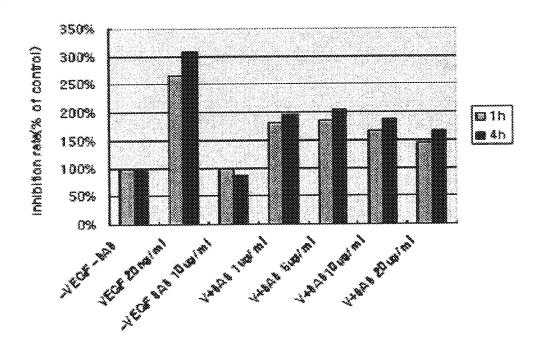
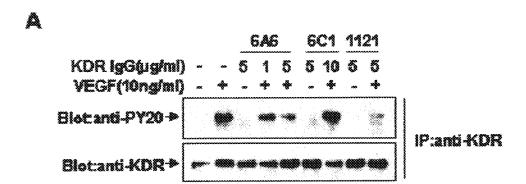
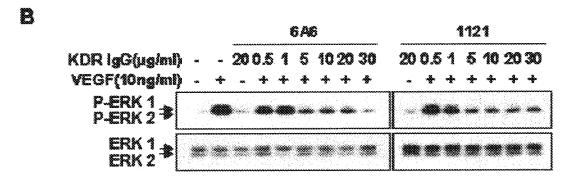
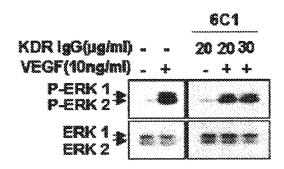


FIG. 21







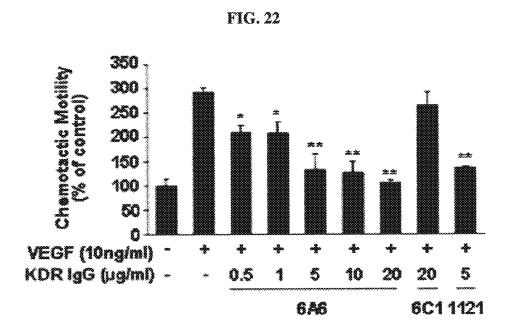
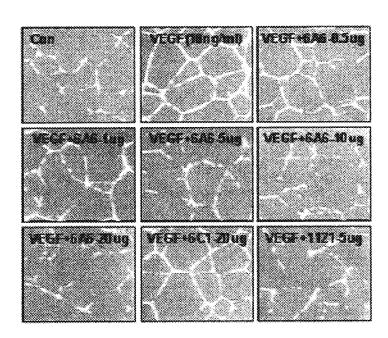


FIG. 23

A



8

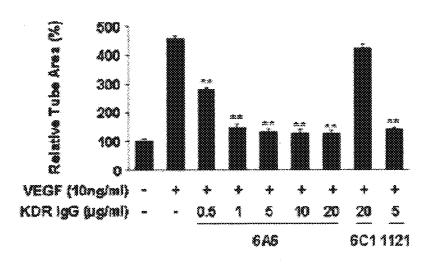


FIG. 24

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g		
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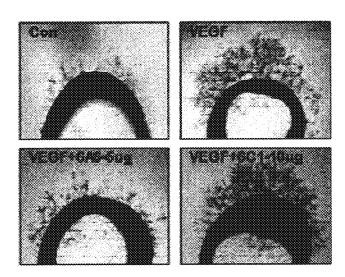
a; CON, b; VEGF, c; 6A6,

d; VEGF+6A6, e;6G1, f; VEGF+6G1

g; 1C11, h; VEGF+1C11

FIG. 25

A



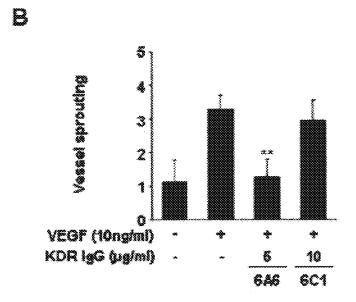
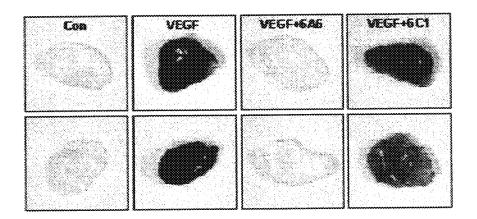


FIG. 26

A



B

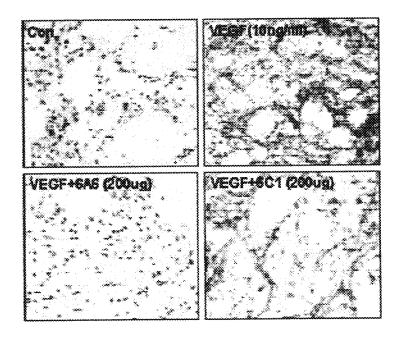


FIG. 27

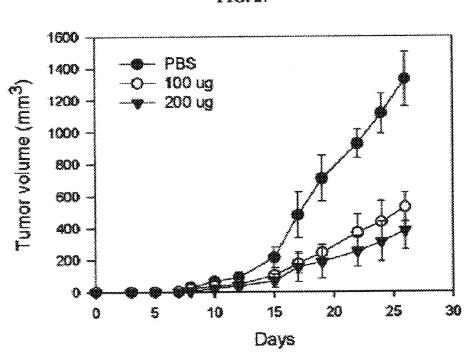
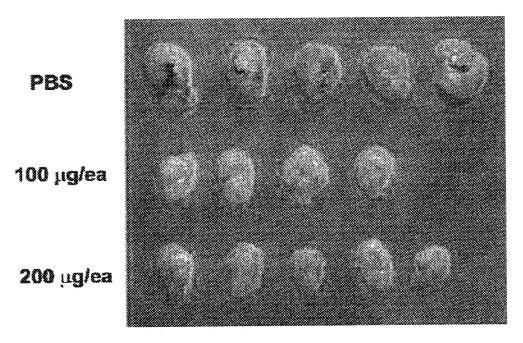
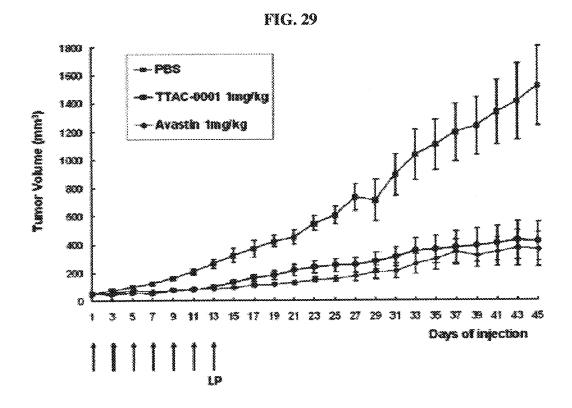
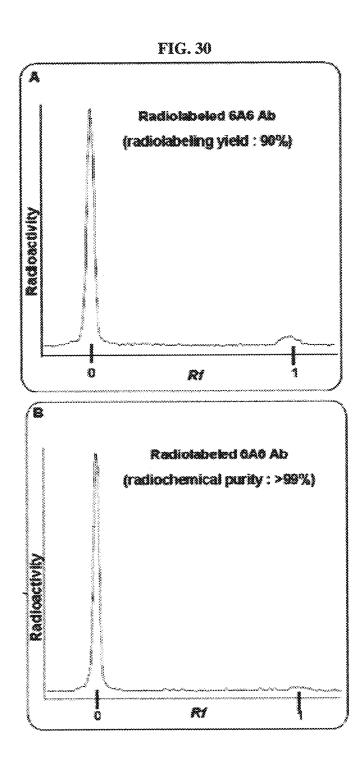


FIG. 28







Pig. 31

2 In post injection

reduced contrast

K562
tumor

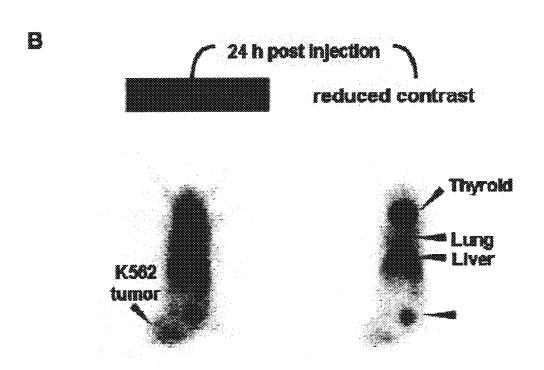


FIG. 32

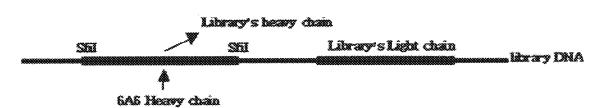


FIG. 33

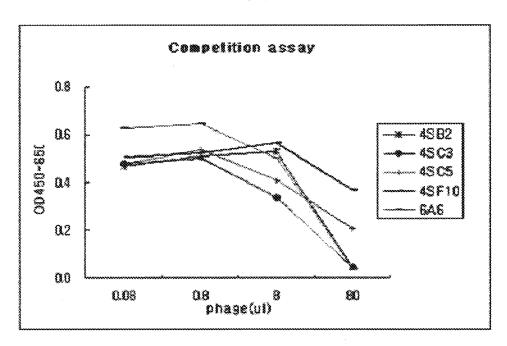


FIG. 34

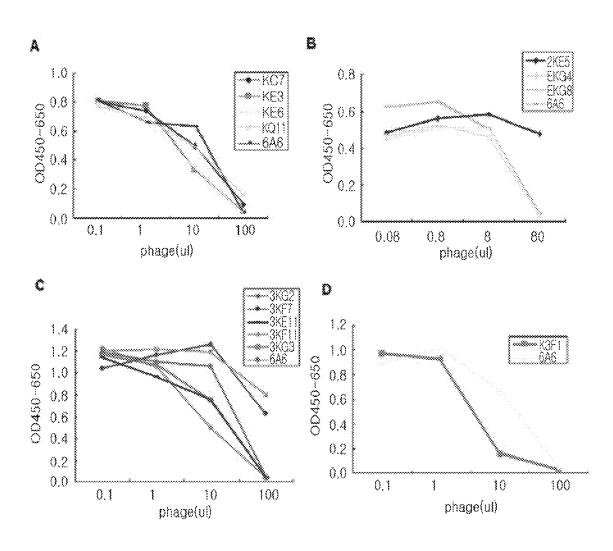
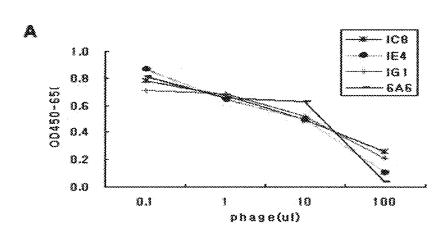
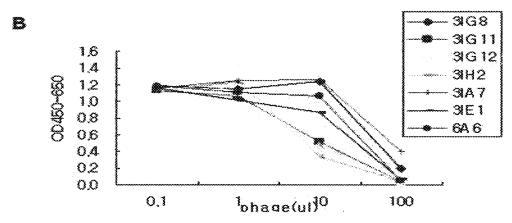
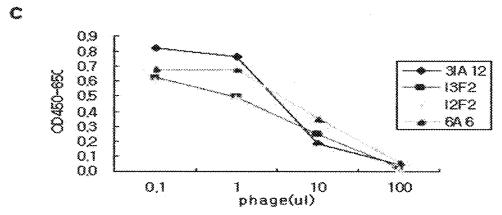


FIG. 35







HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY NEUTRALIZING VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR AND USE THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/664,226, filed on Nov. 19, 2010 (currently pending), the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. The U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/664,226 is a national entry of International Application No. PCT/KR2007/003077, filed on Jun. 26, 2007, which claims priority to Korean Application No. 10-2007- 15 0057719 filed on Jun. 13, 2007, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to human monoclonal antibodies neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor and the use thereof, and more particularly to human ScFv molecules neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, and a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis and a 25 composition for treating cancer, which contain the human ScFv molecules.

BACKGROUND ART

Angiogenesis means the formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing vessels by the growth, differentiation and migration of endothelial cells and does not occur in healthy adults, except for some special occasions, including wound healing, menstruation, etc. However, the excessive formation of new blood vessels in diseases, such as tumor growth and metastasis, age-related macular degeneration, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and chronic inflammation, has been reported (Cameliet and Jain, *Nature*, 407: 249, 2000). For this reason, many efforts to treat diseases, 40 particularly tumors, using angiogenesis inhibitors, have been made

Factors involved in angiogenesis include vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), epithelial growth factor (EGF), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), transforming growth 45 factor-b (TGFb), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), etc. Among them, the vascular endothelial growth factor is an endothelial cell-specific factor which is involved directly in the growth, differentiation and migration of endothelial cells, and there are four different isoforms (VEGF165, VEGF121, VEGF189 50 and VEGF206). Among the four isoforms, VEGF165 is the most abundant isoform in all human tissues except placenta (Tisher et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 266:11947, 1991).

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) regulates new blood vessel formation resulting from the differentiation of 55 endothelial precursors (angioblasts) in situ, is expressed in embryonic tissues (Breier et al., *Development (Camb)*, 114: 521, 1992), macrophages, and proliferating epithelial keratinocytes during wound healing (Brown et al., *J. Exp. Med.*, 176:1375, 1992), and may be responsible for tissue edema associated with inflammation (Ferrara et al., *Endocr. Rev.*, 13:18, 1992). In situ hybridization studies have demonstrated high VEGF expression in a number of human tumor lines including glioblastoma multiforme, hemangioblastoma, central nervous system neoplasms and AIDS-associated Kaposi's sarcoma (Plate et al., *Nature*, 359:845, 1992; Plate et al., *Cancer Res.*, 53: 5822, 1993; Berkman et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*,

2

91:153, 1993; Nakamura et al., AIDS Weekly, 13(1), 1992). High levels of VEGF were also observed in hypoxia induced angiogenesis (Shweiki et al., *Nature*, 359:843, 1992).

The biological function of VEGF is mediated through its high affinity VEGF receptors which are selectively expressed in endothelial cells during embryogenesis (Millauer et al., Cell, 72:835, 1993) and during tumor formation. VEGF receptors (VEGFR) typically are class III receptor-type tyrosine kinases characterized by having several, typically 5 or 7, immunoglobulin-like loops in their amino-terminal extracellular ligand-binding domain of a receptor (Kaipainen et al., J. Exp. Med., 178:2027, 1993). The other two regions include a transmembrane region and a carboxy-terminal intracellular catalytic domain interrupted by an insertion of hydrophilic interkinase sequences of variable lengths, called the kinase insert domain (Terman et al., Oncogene, 6:1677, 1991). VEGF receptors include fms-like tyrosine kinase receptor (Flt-1), or VEGFR-1 (Shibuya et al., Oncogene, 5:519, 1990; WO 92/14248; Terman et al., Oncogene, 6:1677, 20 1991), kinase insert domain-containing receptor/fetal liver kinase (KDR/Flk-1), or VEGFR-2 (Matthews et al., PNAS, 88:9026, 1991), although other receptors such as neuropilin-1 and neuropilin-2 can also bind VEGF. Another tyrosine kinase receptor, VEGFR-3 (Flt-4), binds the VEGF homologues VEGF-C and VEGF-D and is important in the development of lymphatic vessels.

High levels of Flk-1 are expressed by endothelial cells that infiltrate gliomas (Plate et al., *Nature*, 359:845, 1992). Flk-1 levels are specifically upregulated by VEGF produced by human glioblastomas (Plate et al., *Cancer Res.*, 53:5822, 1993).

The finding of high levels of Flk-1 expression in glioblastoma associated endothelial cells (GAEC) indicates that receptor activity is probably induced during tumor formation since Flk-1 transcripts are barely detectable in normal brain endothelial cells. This upregulation is confined to the vascular endothelial cells in close proximity to the tumor. Blocking VEGF activity with neutralizing anti-VEGF monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) resulted in inhibition of the growth of human tumor xenografts in nude mice (Kim, K. et al., *Nature*, 362:841-844, 1993), indicating a direct role for VEGF in tumor-related angiogenesis.

Although VEGF ligands are upregulated in tumor cells, and the receptors thereof are upregulated in tumor infiltrated vascular endothelial cells, the expression levels of VEGF ligands and the receptors thereof are low in normal cells that are not associated with angiogenesis. Therefore, such normal cells would block the interaction between VEGF and the receptors thereof to inhibit angiogenesis, thus inhibiting tumor growth.

High levels of VEGFR-2 are expressed by endothelial cells that infiltrate gliomas, and are specifically upregulated by VEGF produced by human glioblastomas (Plate et al., *Nature*, 359:845, 1992; Plate et al., *Cancer Res.*, 53:5822, 1993). The finding of high levels of VEGR-2 expression in glioblastoma associated endothelial cells (GAEC) suggests that receptor activity is induced during tumor formation, since VEGFR-2 transcripts are barely detectable in normal brain endothelial cells.

Therefore, studies focused on inhibiting the activity of VEGF, which is expressed in tumor growth sites, to inhibit angiogenesis so as to inhibit tumor growth, are being actively conducted. Typically, methods of inhibiting VEGF receptors on the membrane of cancer cells to prevent VEGF from entering cells have been developed. Examples of cell lines producing VEGFR antibodies include a hybridoma cell line producing rat anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody

(DC101; ATCC HB 11534), a hybridoma cell line (M25, 18A1; ATCC HB 12152) producing mouse anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody mAb 25, and a hybridoma cell line producing mouse anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody mAb 73 [(M73,24; ATCC HB 12153), KM1730 ⁵ (FERM BP-5697; WO 98/22616; WO 99/59636), KM1731 (FERM BP-5718), KM1732 (FERM BP-5698), KM1748 (FERM BP-5699), KM1750 (FERM BP-5700)].

There has been a continuous development of humanized antibodies against VEGF receptors. These humanized antibodies against VEGF receptors, developed to date, showed high competition with VEGF in vitro, but had problems in that their ability to neutralize VEGF receptors in cells is reduced and in that the antibodies do not show cross-reactivity in mice or rats, such that animal tests cannot be carried out.

Accordingly, the present inventors have constructed a library of non-immunized fully human antibodies, screened single chain variable fragment (ScFv) antibodies against VEGF receptor (KDR), and found that the antibodies exhibit an excellent KDR-neutralizing effect not only in vitro, but also in cells and in vivo, and show cross-reactivity even in mice and rats, thereby completing the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a fully human single chain variable fragment (ScFv) antibodies 6A6-ScFv and 6A6-IgG, which have an excellent ability to neutralize VEGF receptor in cells and in vivo.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a fully human single chain variable fragment (ScFv), which is a light chain variant of 6A6, which shows a more excellent ability to neutralize VEGF receptor compared to that of 6A6-ScFv.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a 35 of IgG. composition for inhibiting angiogenesis, which contains a fully human ScFv or IgG having the ability to neutralize VEGF receptor. FIG.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a composition for treating cancer, which contains a fully 40 human ScFv or IgG having the ability to neutralize VEGF receptor.

To achieve the above objects, in one aspect, the present invention provides a single chain variable fragment (ScFv) molecule, which contains a light chain variable region represented by an amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 19 and functions to neutralize vascular endothelial growth factor receptor. In the present invention, the ScFv (single chain variable fragment) molecule and a construct thereof preferably have a heavy chain variable region represented by an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a DNA encoding said ScFv (single chain variable fragment) molecule, a vector containing said DNA, and recombinant cells transformed with said vector. In the present invention, the 55 cells are preferably bacterial or animal cells.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis, which contains said ScFv molecule, and a composition for treating cancer, which contains said ScFv molecule.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides an IgG, which contains a light chain variable region represented by an amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 19 and functions to neutralize vascular endothelial growth factor receptor. In the present invention, said IgG preferably has a heavy chain variable region represented by an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20.

4

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis, which contains said IgG, and a composition for treating cancer, which contains said IgG.

Other features and aspects of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows the amino acid sequence and function of a gene inserted into a pCDNA3-KDR D123tFcm vector.

FIG. 2 shows a schematic diagram of KDR(ECD1-2) and KDR(ECD2-3)-Fc for epitope mapping according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc purified in the present invention.

single chain variable fragment (ScFv) antibodies against VEGF receptor (KDR), and found that the antibodies exhibit an excellent KDR neutralizing effect not only in vitro but invention.

FIG. 5 shows the nucleic acid sequence, amino acid sequence and CDR sequence of 6A6 ScFv phage according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows SDS-PAGE results for purified 6A6 ScFv. FIG. 7 shows the results of VEGF competition assays using anti-KDR-ScFv.

FIG. 8 shows the results of epitope mapping of anti-KDR-ScFv according to the present invention.

FIG. 9 shows a cleavage map of pIGHD-6A6Hvy that is a vector containing the invariable region and heavy chain region of 6A6 IgG.

FIG. 10 shows a cleavage map of pIgGLD-6A6Lgt that is a vector containing the constant region and light chain region of IgG.

FIG. 11 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of purified 6A6 IgG.

FIG. 12 shows the results of VEGF competition assays using anti-KDR 6A6 IgG.

FIG. 13 shows the results of competition assays of anti-KDR 6A6 IgG with VEGF families.

FIG. 14 shows the results of FACS analysis for the binding affinity of the inventive anti-KDR IgG antibody to HUVEC cells.

FIG. **15** shows FACS assay results for the competition of the inventive anti-KDR IgG antibody with VEGF165 in HUVEC cells.

FIG. **16** shows the results of Western blot analysis for the expression of KDR in K562 cells (ATCC CCL-243).

FIG. 17 shows the binding affinity of the inventive anti-KDR IgG antibody to the K562 cell line.

FIG. 18 shows FACS assay results for the competition of the inventive anti-KDR IgG antibody with VEGF in the K562 cell line.

FIG. 19 shows FACS analysis results for the binding affinity of an anti-KDR antibody to a Gleevec-resistant cell line.

FIG. 20 shows analysis results for the cell proliferation inhibition of the anti-KDR-IgG according to the present invention.

FIG. 21 shows the results of Western blot analysis for the ability of the inventive anti-KDR antibody to inhibit KDR phosphorylation and ERK phosphorylation, which is induced by VEGF.

FIG. 22 shows the ability of an IgG-type KDR antibody to inhibit the migration of endothelial cells by VEGF.

FIG. 23 shows that an IgG-type KDR antibody inhibits endothelial cell tube formation induced by VEGF.

FIG. 24 shows the inhibition of VEGF-KDR internalization through the binding between the IgG-type KDR antibody and cell surface KDR.

FIG. 25 shows the inhibitory effect of the IgG-type KDR antibody on rat aortic ring sprouting induced by VEGF.

FIG. 26 shows analysis results for the inhibitory effect of the IgG-type KDR antibody on angiogenesis induced by VEGF.

FIG. 27 shows analysis results for the inhibitory effect of a 6A6 antibody on tumor growth in the HCT116 cell line in a 10 colon cancer mouse xenograft model.

FIG. 28 is a photograph of tumors excised after treatment with the 6A6 antibody in the colon cancer mouse xenograft model.

FIG. 29 shows analysis results for the inhibitory effect of 15 the 6A6 antibody on tumor growth in the A549 cell line in a lung cancer mouse xenograft model.

FIG. 30 shows the results of labeling of the IgG-type 6A6 antibody with radioactive isotope iodine.

FIG. 31 shows color images of the IgG-type 6A6 antibody 20 labeled with iodine-123 in a mouse tumor model of chronic myelogenous leukemia.

FIG. 32 is a schematic diagram showing the preparation of light-chain shuffling.

FIG. 33 shows the results of VEGF competition assays of 25 anti-KDR antibodies obtained through light chain shuffling.

FIG. 34 shows the results of VEGF competition assays of anti-KDR antibodies obtained through light chain shuffling.

FIG. 35 shows the results of VEGF competition assays of anti-KDR antibodies obtained through light chain shuffling. 30

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION, AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In one aspect, the present invention relates to a fully human 35 ScFv (single chain variable fragment) antibody 6A6 (TTAC-0001)-ScFv, which neutralizes vascular endothelial growth

The 6A6-ScFv was screened in the following manner. First, a library of fully human antibodies was constructed, and 40 a cell line expressing a fusion protein composed of each of extracellular domains 1-3 of KDR(VEGFR-2), fused to Fc, was constructed. Anti-KDR-ScFv antibodies neutralizing KDR were screened from the fully human antibody library in the cell line using purified recombinant KDR D1-D3-Fc 45 fusion proteins.

The screened ScFv antibodies were expressed and purified in bacteria with V5 tagging, and human KDR D1-D3-Fc binding assays and VEGF competition assays were performed in a ScFv-phage particle state. Also, BIAcore analysis 50 performed in the following manner. was carried out to measure the ScFv-antibody affinity, and 6A6-ScFv having constantly maintained affinity was obtained and converted in the form of IgG.

Also, in the present invention, it was confirmed through Western blotting that 6A6-ScFv inhibited the phosphoryla- 55 tion of an angiogenesis signaling factor ERK in primary cultured HUVEC cells and that this inhibition was dependent on the concentration of 6A6-ScFv.

In another aspect, the present invention relates to a fully human antibody 6A6-IgG neutralizing vascular endothelial 60 growth factor receptor.

FACS analysis revealed that the 6A6-IgG was strongly bound to endogenous human KDR, which was expressed on the surface of living HUVEC cells (ATCC, USA), compared to a commercially available IMC-1C11 IgG chimeric antibody (Imclone, USA), and that, even when the cells were also treated with a competitively binding human VEGF₁₆₅, the

6

6A6-IgG more effectively neutralized KDR, expressed on the surface of the HUVEC cells, compared to the IMC-1C11 IgG chimeric antibody.

This suggests that the results of the VEGF competition assays in ELISA differ from the results indicating that 6A6-IgG and the IMC-1C11 IgG chimeric antibody neutralized KDR at similar levels. That is, the in vitro assay results and the in vivo assay results can differ from each other and there is a limitation in screening highly efficient antibodies based on the in vitro assay results.

Also, in the present invention, it could be observed that the 6A6-IgG antibody was more strongly bound to KDR, expressed in the human acute myeloid eukemia cell line K562 (ATCC, USA), compared to the IMC-1C11 IgG.

Moreover, in the present invention, it was confirmed through Western blotting that 6A6-IgG inhibited the phosphorylation of the angiogenesis signaling factor ERK in primary cultured HUVEC cells and that this inhibition was increased according t concentration dependent manner of 6A6-IgG.

Also, in the present invention, it was observed that the 6A6-IgG according to the present invention inhibited the chemotactic motility of HUVEC cells moving to an environment having VEGF present therein and that the 6A6-IgG also inhibited the tube formation of HUVEC cells, which is direct angiogenesis action.

Furthermore, in the present invention, in order to confirm that the inhibitory effect of 6A6-IgG on VEGF effects on HUVEC cells is because 6A6-IgG blocks the entrance of VEGF receptors into HUVEC cells, observation with a confocal microscope was performed in an experiment using a KDR antibody labeled with FITC. As a result, it was observed that the VEGF receptor (KDR) could not enter the cells, when cells were treated with 6A6-IgG.

Also, through an ex vivo rat aortic ring assay, it was found that, in rat aortic rings treated with 6A6-IgG, vascular sprouting did not occur. Also, angiogenesis was analyzed through a metrigel plug assay by injecting matrigel subcutaneously into

As a result, in a group treated with VEGF, angiogenesis in plugs was observed, but in a group treated with VEGF along with 6A6-IgG, angiogenesis was not observed, suggesting that 6A6-IgG had an angiogenesis inhibitory effect in vivo.

In still another aspect, the present invention relates to variants obtained by mutating the light chain sequence of 6A6-ScFv through light chain shuffling.

Through the light chain shuffling, 18 light chain variants of 6A6-ScFv were obtained, and the light chain shuffling was

- (1) In order to prevent 6A6 from being selected again during a biopanning process, DNA of a 6A6 light chain shuffling library was treated with a restriction enzyme SpeI having a recognition site at the CDR3 of 6A6. After the DNA was transfected into ETB cells, a sub-library was constructed, and KDR affinity and VEGF competition assays in ELISA were performed to select clones having excellent KDR neutralizing ability.
- (2) In a washing step in the biopanning process, the antibody clones were allowed to compete with soluble KDR to select clones having excellent KDR neutralizing abil-
- (3) In a step of allowing phages to bind to the antigen KDR in the biopanning process, IMC-1121B IgG (ImClone, USA) was also added in order to select clones having KDR neutralizing ability which was superior or similar to that of the 1121B IgG.

In still another aspect, the present invention relates to a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis and a composition for treating cancer, which contain said ScFv or IgG.

As used herein, the term "angiogenesis" includes angiogenesis involved in tumor growth and metastasis, age-related 5 macular degeneration, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and chronic inflammation, but the scope of the present invention is not limited thereto.

In the present invention, said cancer includes, but is not limited to, colon cancer, pancreas cancer, rectal cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, renal cancer, melanoma, prostate cancer metastasized to bone, ovarian cancer and blood cancer

The composition of the present invention can be administered by any route suitable for a specific molecule. The com- 15 position of the present invention may be provided to animals, including humans, by any suitable means, directly (e.g., locally, such as by injection, subcutaneous injection or topical administration to a tissue locus) or systemically (e.g., parenterally or orally). Where the composition of the present 20 invention is to be provided parenterally, such as by intravenous, subcutaneous, opthalmic, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, buccal, rectal, vaginal, intraorbital, intracerebral, intracranial, intraspinal, intraventricular, intrathecal, intracisternal, intracapsular, intranasal administration or by aerosol admin- 25 istration, the composition preferably comprises part of an aqueous or physiologically compatible fluid suspension or solution. Thus, the carrier or excipient is physiologically acceptable so that in addition to delivery of the desired agent to the subject, the solution does not otherwise adversely affect 30 the subject's electrolyte and/or volume balance. The aqueous medium for the agent thus may comprise normal physiologic saline.

The ScFv or IgG protein of the present invention may be administered for therapeutic treatments to a cancer patient in 35 an amount sufficient to prevent, inhibit, or reduce the progression of the tumor, e.g., the growth, invasiveness, metastases and/or recurrence of the tumor. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as a "therapeutically effective dose." Amounts effective for this use will depend upon the 40 severity of the disease and the general state of the patient's own immune system.

The dose of the protein according to the present invention is preferably 0.01-100 mg/kg, and more preferably 0.1-10 mg/m².

However, the optimal dose will depend upon a disease being treated and the existence of side effects and can be determined using routine experimentation. The administration of the antibody may be by periodic bolus injections, or by continuous intravenous or intraperitoneal administration 50 from an external reservoir (for example, from an intravenous bag) or an internal reservoir (for example, from a bioerodable implant). Furthermore, the antibody proteins of the present invention also may be administered to the intended recipient together with a plurality of different biologically active molecules. However, the optimal combination of fusion protein and other molecules, modes of administration, dosages may be determined by routine experimentation well within the level of skill in the art.

The composition according to the present invention may be 60 used in combination with other therapeutic agents associated with the relevant disease.

There is synergy when tumors, including human tumors, are treated with the VEGF receptor antibody in combination with radiation, chemotherapy, an additional receptor antago- 65 nist or a combination thereof. In other words, the inhibition of tumor growth by a VEGF receptor antagonist is enhanced

8

more than expected when combined with chemotherapeutic agents, radiation, or an additional receptor antagonist or combinations thereof. Synergy may be shown, for example, by greater inhibition of tumor growth with combined treatment than it would be expected from the additive effect of treatment with a VEGF receptor antagonist and a chemotherapeutic agent, radiation, or an additional receptor antagonist. Preferably, synergy is demonstrated by remission of the cancer where remission is not expected from treatment with a combination of a VEGF receptor antagonist and a chemotherapeutic agent, radiation, or an additional receptor antagonist.

The VEGF receptor antagonist is administered before, during, or after commencing chemotherapy or radiation therapy, as well as any combination thereof, i.e. before and during, before and after, during and after, or before, during, and after commencing the chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. For example, when the VEGF receptor antagonist is an antibody, the antibody is typically administered between 1 and 30 days, preferably between 3 and 20 days, more preferably between 5 and 12 days before commencing radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy.

VEGF Receptor Antibody

In one embodiment, the VEGF receptor antibody binds specifically to an epitope on the extracellular domain of a VEGF receptor. The extracellular domain of a VEGF receptor is the ligand-binding domain. The ligand-binding domain may be found at either end of the receptor, but is normally found at the amino-terminal end.

Some examples of VEGF receptors include the protein tyrosine kinase receptors referred to in the literature as Flt-1 (VEGFR-1), KDR and Flk-1 (VEGFR-2). Unless otherwise stated or clearly suggested otherwise by context, this specification will follow the customary literature nomenclature of VEGF receptors. KDR will be referred to as the human form of a VEGF receptor having MW 180 kD (Terman et al., Oncogene, 6:1677, 1991). Flk-1 (VEGFR-2) is will be referred to as the murine homolog of KDR (Matthews et al., PNAS, 88:9026, 1991). Flt-1 (VEGFR-1) is referred to as a form of VEGF receptor different from, but related to, the KDR/Flk-1 receptor (Shibuya et al., Oncogene, 5:519, 1990).

Other VEGF receptors include those that can be cross-link with labeled VEGF, or that can be co-immunoprecipitated with KDR. Some known forms of these VEGF receptors have molecular weights of approximately 170 kD, 150 kD, 130-135 kD, 120-125 kD and 85 kD (Quinn et al., *PNAS*, 90:7533, 1993; Scher et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271:5761, 1996).

The VEGF receptor is usually bound to a cell, such as an endothelial cell. The VEGF receptor may also be bound to a non-endothelial cell, such as a tumor cell. Alternatively, the VEGF receptor may be free from the cell, preferably in soluble form.

The antagonist of the present invention neutralizes VEGF receptors. In this specification, neutralizing a receptor means inactivating the intrinsic kinase activity of the receptor to transduce a signal. A reliable assay for VEGF receptor neutralization is the inhibition of receptor phosphorylation.

The present invention is not limited by any particular mechanism of VEGF receptor neutralization. The mechanism caused by one antagonist is not necessarily the same as that caused by another antagonist. Some possible mechanisms include preventing binding of the VEGF ligand to the extracellular binding domain of the VEGF receptor, and preventing dimerization or oligomerization of receptors. Other mechanisms cannot, however, be ruled out.

A VEGF receptor (or VEGFR) antibody, in the context of the present invention, inhibits activation of the VEGFR subfamily of receptors. By inhibition of activation of the VEGFR

subfamily of receptors is meant any decrease in the activation of the VEGFR. That is, the prevention of activation need not completely stop activation of the VEGFR. Moreover, inhibition of VEGFR activation, as defined by the present invention, means inhibition of the VEGFR following interaction of the 5 VEGFR antibody and VEGFR. By association is meant sufficient physical or chemical interaction between the VEGFR and VEGFR antibody which inhibits tyrosine kinase activity of the receptor. One of skill in the art would appreciate those examples of such chemical interactions, which include association or bonding, are known in the art and include covalent bonding, ionic bonding, hydrogen bonding, etc. Accordingly, the VEGFR antagonist of the present invention inhibits the tyrosine kinase activity of the receptor, which prevents autophosphorylation of the receptor and phosphorylation of vari- 15 ous other proteins involved in the VEGFR signaling pathways. Such pathways, which are involved in regulation of vasculogenesis and angiogenesis, include any of the following: the phospholipase Cy (PLCy) pathway or the phosphatidylinositol 3' kinase (PI3-K)/Akt and mitogen activated pro- 20 tein kinase (MAPK) pathway (Larrivee et al., Int. J. Med., 5:447, 2000).

The VEGFR subfamily of receptors is characterized by the presence of seven immunoglobulin-like loops in the extracellular domain, a single transmembrane region and a split 25 tyrosine kinase domain in the intracellular region (class III receptor tyrosine kinases). There are several known members of the VEGFR subfamily of receptors, examples of which include VEGFR-1, VEGFR-2, and VEGFR-3.

It is generally believed that KDR (VEGFR-2) is the main 30 VEGF signal transducer that results in endothelial cell proliferation, migration, differentiation, tube formation, increase of vascular permeability, and maintenance of vascular integrity. VEGFR-1 possesses a much weaker kinase activity, and is unable to generate a mitogenic response when stimulated 35 by VEGF, although it binds to VEGF with an affinity that is approximately 10-fold higher than KDR (VEGFR-2). VEGFR-1 has also been implicated in VEGF- and placenta growth factor (P1GF)-induced migration of monocytes and macrophages and production of tissue factor.

As is the case with VEGFR described above, increased VEGFR activation can result from higher levels of ligand, VEGFR gene amplification, increased transcription of the receptor or mutations that cause unregulated receptor signaling.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the VEGFR antibody inhibits binding of VEGFR to its ligand. Binding of a ligand to an external, extracellular domain of VEGFR stimulates receptor dimerization, autophosphorylation of VEGFR, activation of the receptor's internal, cytoplasmic 50 tyrosine kinase domain, and initiation of multiple signal transduction pathways involved in regulation of vasculogenesis and angiogenesis.

Ligands for VEGFR include VEGF and its homologues P1GF, VEGF-B, VEGF-C, VEGF-D, and VEGF-E. For 55 example, P1GF, which is a dimeric secreted factor and only binds VEGFR-1, is produced in large amounts by villous cytotrophoblast, sincytiotrophoblast and extravillous trophoblast and has close amino acid homology to VEGF. Three isoforms exist in humans, P1GF-1, P1GF-2, and P1GF-3. 60 Studies with P1GF-deficient mice demonstrate that this growth factor is not involved in angiogenesis per se, but rather, specifically modulates the angiogenic and permeability effects of VEGF during pathological situations. Also, VEGF-D is closely related to VEGF-C by virtue of the presence of N- and C-terminal extensions that are not found in other VEGF family members. In adult human tissues,

10

VEGF-D mRNA is most abundant in heart, lung, skeletal muscle, colon, and small intestine. Analyses of VEGF-D receptor specificity revealed that VEGF-D is a ligand for both VEGFR-2 (Flk1) and VEGFR-3 (Flt4) and can activate these receptors; however, VEGF-D does not bind to VEGFR-1. In addition, VEGF-D is a mitogen for endothelial cells.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the VEGFR antibody binds specifically to VEGFR. It should be appreciated that the VEGFR antibody can bind externally to the extracellular portion of VEGFR, which may or may not inhibit binding of the ligand, or internally to the tyrosine kinase domain. Preferably, the VEGFR antagonist of the present invention is an antibody, or functional equivalent thereof, specific for VEGFR, details of which are described in more detail below.

In one preferred embodiment, the VEGF receptor antibody binds specifically to KDR. Particularly preferred are antigenbinding proteins that bind to the extracellular domain of KDR and block binding by one or both of its ligands, VEGF and P1GF, and/or neutralize VEGF-induced or P1GF-induced activation of KDR.

There also exist various hybridomas that produce VEGFR-2 antibodies. For example, a hybridoma cell line producing rat anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody (DC101) was deposited as ATCC HB 11534; a hybridoma cell line (M25. 18A1) producing mouse anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody mAb 25 was deposited as ATCC HB 12152; and a hybridoma cell line (M73.24) producing mouse anti-mouse VEGFR-2 monoclonal antibody mAb 73 was deposited as ATCC HB 12153.

In addition, various hybridomas that produce anti-VEGFR-1 antibodies exist and include, but are not limited to, hybridomas KM1730 (deposited as FERM BP-5697), KM1731 (deposited as FERM BP-5718), KM1732 (deposited as FERM BP-5698), KM1748 (deposited as FERM BP-5699), KM1750 (deposited as FERM BP-5700) disclosed in WO 98/22616, WO 99/59636, AU 5066698 B2, and CA 2328893.

Many other VEGFR antagonists are known in the art. Some 40 examples of VEGFR antagonists are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,185,438; 5,621,090; 5,283,354; 5,270,458; 5,367,057; 5,548,065; 5,747,651; 5,912,133; 6,677,434; 6,960,446; 5,840,301; 5,861,499; 6,365,157; 5,955,311; 6,365,157; 6,811,779; and WO 2001/66063. U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,301, Terman et al., Oncogene, 6:1677, 1991, WO 94/10202, and WO 95/21865, disclose VEGFR antagonists and, specifically, anti-VEGFR-2 antibodies. In addition, anti-VEGFR-2 antibodies are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,177,401 and 5,712, 395. U.S. Pat. No. 5,981,569 discloses VEGFR antagonists that are organic molecules. Also, bi-specific antibodies (BsAbs), which are antibodies that have two different antigen-binding specificities or sites, directed against KDR (VEGFR-2) and VEGFR-1 are known. Also, Hennequin et al., J. Med. Chem., 42:5369, 1999 discloses certain quinazolines, quinolines and cinnolines as being useful as VEGF receptor antagonists (Annie et al., J. Acqu. Immune Defic. Syn. and Hum. Retrovirol., 17: A41, 1998).

Furthermore, assays for the determination of VEGFR antibodies are known in the art. The VEGFR antibodies of the present invention inhibit the tyrosine kinase activity of VEGFR, which generally involves phosphorylation events. Accordingly, phosphorylation assays are useful in determining VEGFR antibodies in the present invention. Some assays for tyrosine kinase activity are described in Panek et al., *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Thera.*, 283:1433, 1997 and Batley et al., *Life Sci.*, 62:143, 1998. In addition, methods specific for detection of VEGFR expression can be utilized.

Antibodies

The antibodies of the present invention may be produced by methods known in the art (Kohler and Milstein, Nature, 256:495, 1975; Campbell, Monoclonal Antibody Technology, The Production and Characterization of Rodent and 5 Human Hybridomas; Burdon et al., Eds., Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Vol. 13, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, 1985; Huse et al., Science, 246:1275, 1989). The antibodies of the present invention can be monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies or any other suitable type of an antibody, such as a fragment or a derivative of an antibody, a single chain variable fragmen (ScFv) or a synthetic homolog of the antibody, provided that the antibody has the same binding characteristics as, or that has binding characteristics comparable to, those of the whole 15 antibody. As used herein, unless otherwise indicated or clear from the context, antibody domains, regions and fragments follow standard definitions as are well known in the art (Abbas et al., Cellular and Molecular Immunology, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1991). Preferably, the anti-20 bodies of the present invention are monoclonal antibodies.

Antibody fragments can be produced by cleaving a whole antibody, or by expressing DNA that encodes the fragment. Fragments of antibodies may be prepared by methods described in the published literature (Lamoyi et al., *J. Immunol. Methods*, 56:235, 1983; Parham, *J. Immunol.*, 131:2895, 1983). Such fragments may contain one or both of an Fab fragment and an F(ab')2 fragment. Such fragments may also contain single chain variable fragment antibodies, i.e. scFv, dibodies, or other antibody fragments. Methods of producing such functional equivalents are disclosed in WO 93/21319, EP 239,400, WO 89/09622, EP 338,745 and EP 332,424.

Single chain variable fragments (scFv) are polypeptides that consist of the variable region of a heavy chain of an antibody linked to the variable region of a light chain with a 35 short peptide linker). Thus, the scFv comprises the entire antibody-combining site. These chains may be produced in bacteria, or in eukaryotic cells. A typical example of a single chain antibody in the present invention is 6A6-ScFv (TTAC-0001). 6A6-ScFv was shown to block VEGF-KDR (VEGF- 40 VEGFR-2) interaction and inhibit VEGF-stimulated receptor phosphorylation. This 6A6-ScFv binds both to soluble KDR (VEGFR-2) and cell surface-expressed KDR (VEGFR-2) on HUVEC cells and K562 cells. The 6A6-ScFv has a light chain sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35 and a heavy chain sequence of 45 SEQ ID NO: 36. The 6A6-ScFv antibody is a fully human antibody and can be constructed with Fab', F(ab')2, bivalent ScFv, bivalent recombiant ScFv or human IgG antibodies.

Preferably, although the antibody fragments contain all six complementarity-determining regions (CDRs) of the whole 50 antibody, fragments containing fewer than all of such regions, such as three, four or five CDRs, may also be functional. If the antibody fragment is too short to be immunogenic, it may be conjugated to a carrier molecule. Some suitable carrier molecules include keyhole limpet hemocyanin and bovine serum 55 albumen. Conjugation may be carried out by methods known in the art.

Antibodies of the present invention also include antibodies whose binding characteristics can be improved by direct mutation, methods of affinity maturation, phage display, or 60 chain shuffling. Affinity and specificity may be modified or improved by mutating CDRs and screening for antigen binding sites having the desired characteristics (Yang et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 254:392, 1995). CDRs are mutated in a variety of ways. One way is to randomize individual residues or combinations 65 of residues so that in a population of otherwise identical antigen binding sites, all twenty amino acids are found at

12

particular positions. Alternatively, mutations are induced over a range of CDR residues by error prone PCR methods ((Hawkins et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 226:889, 1992). Phage display vectors containing heavy and light chain variable region genes are propagated in mutator strains of *E. coli* (Low et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 250:359, 1996). These methods of mutagenesis are illustrative of the many methods known to one of skill in the art.

Antibodies, and particularly monoclonal antibodies, can be produced by methods known in the art. Examples for production of antibodies include, but are not limited to, production in hybridoma cells and transformation of mammalian cells with DNA encoding the receptor antagonist. These methods are described in various publications (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature*, 256:495, 1975; Campbell in "Monoclonal Antibody Technology, The Production and Characterization of Rodent and Human Hybridomas" in Burdon et al, Eds., Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Vol. 13, Elservier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, 1985; Huse et al., *Science*, 246:1275, 1989).

Equivalents of antibodies are also prepared by methods known in the art. For example, fragments of antibodies may be prepared enzymatically from whole antibodies. Preferably, equivalents of antibodies are prepared from DNA encoding such equivalents. DNA encoding fragments of antibodies may be prepared by deleting all but the desired portion of the DNA that encodes the full-length antibody. DNA encoding chimerized antibodies may be prepared by recombining DNA encoding human constant regions, derived substantially or exclusively from the corresponding human antibody regions, and DNA encoding variable regions, derived substantially or exclusively from the sequence of the variable region of a mammal other than a human. DNA encoding humanized antibodies may be prepared by recombining DNA encoding constant regions and variable regions other than the complementarity determining regions (CDRs), derived substantially or exclusively from the corresponding human antibody regions, and DNA encoding CDRs, derived substantially or exclusively from a mammal other than a human.

Suitable sources of DNA molecules that encode fragments of antibodies include cells, such as hybridomas, that express the full-length antibody. The fragments may be used by themselves as antibody equivalents, or may be recombined into equivalents, as described above. The DNA deletions and recombinations described in this section may be carried out by known methods, such as those described in the published patent applications listed above in the section entitled "Functional Equivalents of Antibodies" and/or other standard recombinant DNA techniques, such as those described below.

Preferred host cells for transformation of vectors and expression of the antibodies of the present invention are mammalian cells, e.g., COS-7 cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, and cell lines of lymphoid origin such as lymphoma, myeloma, or hybridoma cells. Other eukaryotic host, such as yeasts, can be alternatively used. For example, mouse fetal liver stromal cell line 2018 binds to APtag-Flk 1 and APtag-Flk-2 fusion proteins, i.e., contains ligands of VEGFR-2 and Flk-2 (ATCC, Manassas, Va., CRL 10907), human fetal spleen cell line Fsp 62891 contains Flk-2 ligand (ATCC CRL 10935), and human stromal fetal thymus cell line, F. thy 62891, contains VEGFR-2 ligand (ATCC CRL 10936).

As used herein, the term "vector" means any nucleic acid comprising a competent nucleotide sequence to be incorporated into a host cell and to be recombined with and integrated into the host cell genome, or to replicate autonomously as an episome. Such vectors include linear nucleic acids, plasmids, phagemids, cosmids, RNA vectors, viral vectors and the like.

Examples of a viral vector include, but is not limited to, a retrovirus, an adenovirus and an adeno-associated virus.

As used herein, the term "gene expression" or "expression of a target protein" is understood to mean the transcription of a DNA sequence, the translation of an mRNA transcript and 5 the secretion of an Fc fusion protein product.

In the present invention, suitable host cells can be transformed or transfected with DNA and can be used to express and/or secrete target proteins. Preferred host cells for use in the present invention include immortalized hybridoma cells, 10 NS/O myeloma cells, 293 cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, HELA cells and COS cells.

The transformed host cells are cultured by methods known in the art in a liquid medium containing assimilable sources of carbon (carbohydrates such as glucose or lactose), nitrogen 15 (amino acids, peptides, proteins or their degradation products such as peptones, ammonium salts or the like), and inorganic salts (sulfates, phosphates and/or carbonates of sodium, potassium, magnesium and calcium). The medium additionally contains, for example, growth-promoting substances, 20 such as trace elements, for example iron, zinc, manganese and the like.

Where it is desired to express a gene construct in yeast, a suitable selection gene for use in yeast is the trp1 gene present in the yeast plasmid YRp7 (Stinchcomb et al., *Nature*, 282:39, 25 1979; Kingsman et al., *Gene*, 7:141, 1979). The trp1 gene provides a selection marker for a mutant strain of yeast lacking the ability to grow in tryptophan, for example, ATCC 44076 or PEP4-1 (Jones, *Genetics*, 85:12, 1977). The presence of the trp1 lesion in the yeast host cell genome then 30 provides an effective environment for detecting transformation by growth in the absence of tryptophan. Similarly, Leu2-deficient yeast strains (ATCC 20622 or 38626) are complemented by known plasmids bearing the Leu2 gene.

Alternatively, the DNA encoding the receptor antagonist 35 can be cloned into vectors derived from viruses such as adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpesvirus, retrovirus or lentivirus. Gene expression is controlled by inducible or uninducible regulatory sequences.

Briefly, a suitable source of cells containing nucleic acid 40 molecules that express the desired DNA, such as an antibody, antibody equivalent or VEGF receptor, is selected. Total RNA is prepared by standard procedures from a suitable source. The total RNA is used to direct cDNA synthesis. Standard methods for isolating RNA and synthesizing cDNA are provided in standard manuals of molecular biology such as, for example, those described above.

The cDNA may be amplified by known methods. For example, the cDNA may be used as a template for amplification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Saiki et al., *Sci-50 ence*, 239:487, 1988; U.S. Pat. No. 4,683,195). The sequences of the oligonucleotide primers for the PCR amplification are derived from the known sequence to be amplified. The oligonucleotides are synthesized by methods known in the art (Caruthers, *Science*, 230:281, 1985).

A mixture of upstream and downstream oligonucleotides is used in the PCR amplification. The conditions are optimized for each particular primer pair according to standard procedures. The PCR product is analyzed, for example, by electrophoresis for cDNA having the correct size, corresponding to 60 the sequence between the primers. Alternatively, the coding region may be amplified in two or more overlapping fragments. The overlapping fragments are designed to include a restriction site permitting the assembly of the intact cDNA from the fragments.

In order to isolate the entire protein-coding regions for the VEGF receptors, for example, the upstream PCR oligonucle14

otide primer is complementary to the sequence at the 5' end, preferably encompassing the ATG start codon and at least 5-10 nucleotides upstream of the start codon. The downstream PCR oligonucleotide primer is complementary to the sequence at the 3' end of the desired DNA sequence. The desired DNA sequence preferably encodes the entire extracellular portion of the VEGF receptor, and optionally encodes all or part of the transmembrane region, and/or all or part of the intracellular region, including the stop codon.

The DNA to be amplified, such as that encoding antibodies, antibody equivalents, or VEGF receptors, may also be replicated in a wide variety of cloning vectors in a wide variety of host cells. The host cell may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic.

The vector into which the DNA is spliced may comprise segments of chromosomal, non-chromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences. Some suitable prokaryotic cloning vectors include plasmids derived from *E. coli*, such as colE1, pCRI, pBR322, pMB9, pKSM, and RP4. Prokaryotic vectors also include derivatives of phage DNA such as M13 and other filamentous single-stranded DNA phages. A preferred vector for cloning nucleic acid encoding the VEGF receptor is the Baculovirus vector.

The vector containing the DNA to be expressed is transfected into a suitable host cell. The host cell is maintained in an appropriate culture medium, and subjected to conditions under which the cells and the vector replicate. The vector may be recovered from the cell. The DNA to be expressed may be recovered from the vector.

The DNA to be expressed, such as that encoding antibodies, antibody equivalents, or receptors, may be inserted into a suitable expression vector and expressed in a suitable prokaryotic or eucaryotic host cell.

For example, the DNA inserted into a host cell may encode the entire extracellular portion of the VEGF receptor, or a soluble fragment of the extracellular portion of the VEGF receptor. The extracellular portion of the VEGF receptor encoded by the DNA is optionally attached at either, or both, the 5' end or the 3' end to additional amino acid sequences. The additional amino acid sequences may be attached to the VEGF receptor extracellular region, such as the leader sequence, the transmembrane region and/or the intracellular region of the VEGF receptor. The additional amino acid sequences may also be sequences not attached to the VEGF receptor in nature. Preferably, such additional amino acid sequences serve a particular purpose, such as to improve expression levels, secretion, solubility, or immunogenicity.

Vectors for expressing proteins in bacteria, especially *E. coli*, are known (Dieckmann and Tzagoloff, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 260:1513, 1985). These vectors contain DNA sequences that encode anthranilate synthetase (TrpE) followed by a polylinker at the carboxy terminus. Other expression vector systems are based on beta-galactosidase (pEX); lambda PL; maltose binding protein (pMAL); and glutathione S-transferase (pGST) (*Gene*, 67:31, 1988; *Peptide Research*, 3:167, 1990)

Suitable vectors for expression in mammalian cells are also known. Such vectors include well-known derivatives of SV-40, adenovirus, retrovirus-derived DNA sequences and shuttle vectors derived from combination of functional mammalian vectors, such as those described above, and functional plasmids and phage DNA.

Additional vectors for expression of eukaryotic cells are known in the art (Southern, P. J. and Berg, P., J. Mol. Appl. Genet., 1:327, 1982; Subramani et al, Mol. Cell. Biol., 1:854, 1981; Kaufinann and Sharp, J. Mol. Biol., 159:601, 1982; Kaufinann and Sharp, Mol. Cell. Biol., 1982; Scahill et al., PNAS, 80:4654, 1983; Urlaub and Chasin, PNAS, 77:4216,

1980). The expression vectors useful in the present invention contain at least one expression control sequence that is operatively linked to the DNA sequence or fragment to be expressed. The control sequence is inserted in the vector in order to control and to regulate the expression of the cloned 5 DNA sequence. Examples of useful expression control sequences include the lac system, the trp system, the tac system, the trc system, major operator and promoter regions of phage lambda, the control region of fd coat protein, the glycolytic promoters of yeast, e.g., the promoter for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, the promoters of yeast acid phosphatase, e.g., Pho5, the promoters of the yeast alpha-mating factors, and promoters derived from polyoma, adenovirus, retrovirus, and simian virus, e.g., the early and late promoters of SV40, and other sequences known to control the expression of genes 15 of prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells and their viruses.

Vectors containing the control signals and DNA to be expressed, such as that encoding antibodies, antibody equivalents, or VEGF receptors, are inserted into a host cell for expression. Some useful expression host cells include well-20 known prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Some suitable prokaryotic hosts include, for example, *E. coli*, such as *E. coli* SG-936, *E. coli* HB 101, *E. coli* W3110, *E. coli* X1776, *E. coli* X2282, *E. coli* DHI, and *E. coli* MRCI, *Pseudomonas, Bacillus*, such as *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Streptomyces*. Suitable 25 eukaryotic cells include yeast and other fungi, insect, animal cells, such as COS cells and CHO cells, human cells and plant cells in tissue culture.

Following expression in a host cell maintained in a suitable medium, the polypeptide or peptide to be expressed, such as antibodies, antibody equivalents, or VEGF receptors, may be isolated from the medium, and purified by methods known in the art. If the polypeptide or peptide is not secreted into the culture medium, the host cells are lysed prior to isolation and purification.

In addition, the antibodies of the invention may be prepared by immunizing a mammal with a soluble receptor. The soluble receptors themselves may be used as immunogens, or may be attached to a carrier protein or to other objects, such as beads, i.e., sepharose beads. After the mammal has produced 40 antibodies, a mixture of antibody-producing cells, such as the splenocytes, is isolated. Monoclonal antibodies may be produced by isolating individual antibody-producing cells from the mixture and making the cells immortal by, for example, fusing them with tumor cells, such as myeloma cells. The 45 resulting hybridomas are preserved in culture, and express monoclonal antibodies, which are harvested from the culture medium

The antibodies may also be prepared from receptors bound to the surface of cells that express the specific receptor of 50 interest. The cell to which the receptors are bound may be a cell that naturally expresses the receptor, such as a vascular endothelial cell for VEGFR. Alternatively, the cell to which the receptor is bound may be a cell into which the DNA encoding the receptor has been transfected, such as 3T3 cells, 55 which have been transfected with VEGFR.

A receptor may be used as an immunogen to raise an antibody of the present invention. The receptor peptide may be obtained from natural sources, such as from cells that express the receptors. For example, the VEGF receptor peptide may be obtained from vascular endothelial cells. Alternatively, synthetic receptor peptides may be prepared using commercially available machines. In such an embodiment, the VEGF receptor amino acid sequence can be provided through the published literatures (Shibuya et al., *Oncogene*, 65:519, 1990; PCT/US92/01300; Terman et al., Oncogene, 6:1677, 1991; Matthews et al., *PNAS*, 88:9026, 1991).

16

As an alternative, DNA encoding a receptor, such as a cDNA or a fragment thereof, is cloned and expressed, and the resulting polypeptide is recovered and thus it may be used as an immunogen to raise an antibody of the present invention. For example, in order to prepare the VEGF receptors against which the antibodies are made, nucleic acid molecules that encode the VEGF receptors of the present invention, or portions thereof, especially the extracellular portions thereof, may be inserted into known vectors for expression in host cells using standard recombinant DNA techniques, such as those described below. Suitable sources of such nucleic acid molecules include cells that express VEGF receptors, i.e., vascular endothelial cells.

The antibody may be prepared in any mammal; suitable mammals other than human include, for example, a rabbit, rat, mouse, horse, goat, or primate. Mice are frequently used to prepare monoclonal antibodies. The antibody may be a member of one of the following immunoglobulin classes: IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD, or IgE, and the subclasses thereof, and preferably is an IgG1 antibody. The antibodies of the present invention and their functional equivalents may be or may combine members of any of the immunoglobulin classes. Neutralization of VEGF Activation of VEGF Receptors

Neutralization of activation of a VEGF receptor in a sample of endothelial or non-endothelial cells, such as tumor cells, may be performed in vitro or in vivo. Neutralizing VEGF activation of a VEGF receptor in a sample of VEGF-receptor expressing cells comprises contacting the cells with the antibody of the present invention. The cells are contacted in vitro with the antibody, before, simultaneously with, or after, adding VEGF to the cell sample.

In vivo, the antibody of the present invention is contacted with a VEGF receptor by administration to a mammal. Methods of administration to a mammal include, for example, oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular administration.

This in vivo neutralization method is useful for inhibiting angiogenesis in a mammal. Angiogenesis inhibition is a useful therapeutic method, such as for preventing or inhibiting angiogenesis associated with pathological conditions such as tumor growth. Accordingly, the the antibody of the present invention is an anti-angiogenic and anti-tumor immunotherapeutic agent.

As used herein the term "mammal" means any mammal. Some examples of mammals include pet animals, such as dogs and cats; farm animals, such as pigs, cattle, sheep, and goats; laboratory animals, such as mice and rats; primates, such as monkeys, apes, and chimpanzees; and humans.

VEGF receptors are found on some non-endothelial cells, such as tumor cells, indicating the unexpected presence of an autocrine and/or paracrine loop in these cells. The antagonists, e.g., the antibodies, of this invention are useful in neutralizing the activity of VEGF receptors on such cells, thereby blocking the autocrine and/or paracrine loop, and inhibiting tumor growth. The methods of inhibiting angiogenesis and of inhibiting pathological conditions such as tumor growth in a mammal comprise administering an effective amount of any one of the inventive antagonists, e.g., antibodies, including any of the functional equivalents thereof, systemically to a mammal, or directly to a tumor within the mammal. The mammal is preferably human. This method is effective for treating subjects with both solid tumors, preferably highly vascular tumors, and non-solid tumors.

The inhibition or reduction of tumor growth includes the prevention or inhibition of the progression of a tumor, including cancerous and noncancerous tumors. The progression of a tumor includes the invasiveness, metastasis, recurrence and

increase in size of the tumor. The inhibition or reduction of tumor growth also includes the destruction of a tumor.

All types of tumors may be treated by the methods of the present invention. The tumors may be solid or non-solid.

Some examples of solid tumors that can be treated with the 5 antagonists of the present invention include carcinomas, sarcomas, blastomas or gliomas. Some examples of such tumors include epidermoid tumors, squamous tumors, such as head and neck tumors, colorectal tumors, prostate tumors, breast tumors, lung tumors, including small cell and non-small cell lung tumors, pancreatic tumors, thyroid tumors, ovarian tumors, and liver tumors. Other examples include Kapos's sarcoma, CNS neoplasms, neuroblastomas, capillary hemangioblastomas, meningiomas and cerebral metastases, melanoma, gastrointestinal and renal carcinomas and sarcomas, 15 rhabdomyosarcoma, glioblastoma, preferably glioblastoma multiforme, and leiomyosarcoma. Examples of vascularized skin cancers for which the antagonists of this invention are effective include squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and skin cancers that can be treated by suppressing the 20 growth of malignant keratinocytes, such as human malignant keratinocytes.

Some examples of non-solid tumors include leukemias, multiple myelomas and lymphomas. Some examples of leukemias include acute myelocytic leukemia (AML), chronic 25 myelocytic leukemia (CML), acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), erythrocytic leukemia or monocytic leukemia. Some examples of lymphomas include lymphomas associated with Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's disease.

Preventing or inhibiting angiogenesis is also useful to treat non-neoplastic pathologic conditions characterized by excessive angiogenesis, such as neovascular glaucoma, proliferative retinopathy including proliferative diabetic retinopathy, arthritis, macular degeneration, hemangiomas, angiofibromas, and psoriasis.

Using Inventive Antibodies to Isolate and Purify VEGF Receptor

The antagonists of the present invention may be used to isolate and purify the VEGF receptor using conventional 40 methods such as affinity chromatography (Dean et al., Affinity Chromatography: A Practical Approach, IRL Press, Arlington, Va., 1985). Other methods well known in the art include magnetic separation with antibody-coated magnetic beads, "panning" with an antibody attached to a solid matrix, 45 and flow cytometry (FACS).

The source of the VEGF receptor is typically vascular cells, and especially vascular endothelial cells, that express the VEGF receptor. Suitable sources of vascular endothelial cells are blood vessels, such as umbilical cord blood cells, especially, human umbilical cord vascular endothelial cells (HU-VEC).

The VEGF receptors may be used as a starting material to produce other materials, such as antigens for making additional monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies that recognize 55 and bind to the VEGF receptor or other antigens on the surface of VEGF-expressing cells.

Using Inventive Antibodies to Isolate and Purify KDR Positive Tumor Cells

The antibodies of the present invention may be used to 60 isolate and purify Flk-1 KDR (VEGFR-2) positive tumor cells, i.e., tumor cells expressing KDR, using conventional methods such as affinity chromatography (Dean, P. D. G. et al., Affinity Chromatography: A Practical Approach, IRL Press, Arlington, Va., 1985). Other methods well known in the 65 art include magnetic separation with antibody-coated magnetic beads, cytotoxic agents, such as complement, conju-

18

gated to the antibody, "panning" with an antibody attached to a solid matrix, and flow cytometry (FACS).

Monitoring Levels of VEGF and VEGF Receptors In Vitro or In Vivo

The antibodies of the present invention may be used to monitor the levels of VEGF or VEGF receptors in vitro or in vivo in biological samples using standard assays and methods known in the art. Some examples of biological samples include bodily fluids, such as blood. Standard assays involve, for example, labeling the antibodies and conducting standard immunoassays, such as radioimmunoassays, as is well know in the art

Standard recombinant DNA techniques useful in carrying out the present invention are described in the literature (Sambrook et al., "Molecular Cloning, "Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1987; Ausubel et al, (Eds) "Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, "Green Publishing Associates/Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1990).

Administration

The receptor antibodies of the present invention can be administered for therapeutic treatments to a patient suffering from a tumor in an amount sufficient to prevent, inhibit, or reduce the progression of the tumor, e.g., the growth, invasiveness, metastases and/or recurrence of the tumor. An amount adequate to accomplish this purpose is defined as a therapeutically effective dose. Amounts effective for this use will depend upon the severity of the disease and the general state of the patient's own immune system. Dosing schedules will also vary depending on the disease state and status of the patient, and will typically range from a single bolus dosage or

continuous infusion to multiple administrations per day (e.g.,

every 4-6 hours), or as indicated by the treating physician and

the patient's condition. It should be noted, however, that the

present invention is not limited to any particular dose.

The present invention can be used to treat any suitable tumor, including, for example, tumors of the breast, heart, lung, small intestine, colon, spleen, kidney, bladder, head and neck, ovary, prostate, brain, pancreas, skin, bone, bone marrow, blood, thymus, uterus, testicles, cervix or liver. Preferably, the methods of the present invention are used when the tumor is a tumor of the colon or when the tumor is a non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC).

Furthermore, the tumors of the present invention preferably have aberrant expression or signaling of VEGFR. Enhanced signaling by VEGFR has been observed in many different human cancers. High levels of VEGFR-2 are expressed by endothelial cells that infiltrate gliomas (Plate et al., *Nature*, 359:845, 1992). VEGFR-2 levels are specifically upregulated by VEGF produced by human glioblastomas (Plate et al., *Cancer Res.*, 53:5822, 1993). The finding of high levels of VEGFR-2 expression in glioblastoma associated endothelial cells (GAEC) indicates that receptor activity is probably induced during tumor formation since VEGFR-2 transcripts are barely detectable in normal brain endothelial cells. This upregulation is confined to the vascular endothelial cells in close proximity to the tumor.

The present invention is useful for inhibition or reduction of tumor growth. By inhibition or reduction of tumor growth is meant prevention, inhibition, or reduction of the progression of the tumor, e. g, the growth, invasiveness, metastases and/or recurrence of the tumor. In addition, the present invention can also be useful in treating an angiogenic condition, such as atherosclerosis, arthritis, macular degeneration and psoriasis. The identification of those patients that have conditions for which the present invention is useful is well within the ability and knowledge of one skilled in the art.

In the present invention, any suitable method or route can be used to administer the VEGFR antibodies, for example, oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular administration. The dose of antagonist administered depends on numerous factors, including, for example, the type of antibodies, the type and severity of tumor to be treated and the route of administration of the antibodies. It should be emphasized, however, that the present invention is not limited to any particular method or route of administration.

In one alternative embodiment, the VEGFR antagonist and can be administered in combination with one or more antineoplastic agents (U.S. Pat. No. 6,217,866). Any suitable antineoplastic agent can be used, such as a chemotherapeutic agent or radiation. Examples of chemotherapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, cisplatin, doxorubicin, paclitaxel, irinotecan (CPT-11), topotecan or a combination thereof. When the antineoplastic agent is radiation, the source of the radiation can be either external (external beam radiation therapy-EBRT) or internal (brachytherapy-BT) to the 20 patient being treated. The dose of antineoplastic agent administered depends on numerous factors, including, for example, the type of agent, the type and severity of tumor being treated and the route of administration of the agent. It should be emphasized, however, that the present invention is not limited 25 to any particular dose.

In an additional alternative embodiment, the VEGFR antibody of the present invention can be administered in combination with one or more suitable adjuvants, such as, for example, cytokines (for example, IL-10 and IL-13) or other immune stimulators. See, for example, Larrivee et al., supra. It should be appreciated, however, that administration of only the VEGFR antagonist is sufficient to prevent, inhibit, or reduce the progression of the tumor in a therapeutically effective manner.

In addition, the VEGFR antibody can be administered as a ligand conjugate, which binds specifically to the receptor and delivers a toxic, lethal payload following ligand-toxin internalization. Conjugates between toxins and the receptors were designed with the aim of developing toxic agents specific for EGFR- or VEGFR-overexpressing tumor cells while minimizing nonspecific toxicity. For example, a conjugate composed of EGF and *Pseudomonas* endotoxin (PE) was shown to be toxic toward EGFR-expressing HeLa cells in vitro. 45 Various agents, including thioridazine and adenovirus, can enhance cellular uptake of the conjugate, as well as increase the cytotoxicity of the conjugate.

It is understood that the VEGFR antibodies of the present invention, where used in a mammal for the purpose of prophylaxis or treatment, will be administered in the form of a composition additionally comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include, for example, one or more of water, saline, phosphate buffered saline, dextrose, glycerol, ethanol and the like, as well as combinations thereof. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers may further comprise minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, preservatives or buffers, which enhance the shelf life or effectiveness of the binding proteins. The compositions for the injection may, as is well known in the art, be formulated so as to provide quick, sustained or delayed release of the active ingredient after administration to the mammal.

The VEGFR antibodies of the present invention may be in a variety of forms. These include, for example, solid, semisolid and liquid dosage forms, such as tablets, pills, powders, liquid solutions, dispersions or suspensions, liposomes, sup20

positories, injectable and infusible solutions. The preferred form depends on the intended mode of administration and therapeutic application.

Such antibodies can be prepared in a manner well known in the pharmaceutical art. In making the composition, the active ingredient will usually be mixed with a carrier, or diluted by a carrier, and/or enclosed within a carrier which may, for example, be in the form of a capsule, sachet, paper or other container. When the carrier serves as a diluent, it may be a solid, semi-solid, or liquid material, which acts as a vehicle, excipient or medium for the active ingredient. Thus, the composition may be in the form of tablets, lozenges, sachets, cachets, elixirs, suspensions, aerosols (as a solid or in a liquid medium), ointments containing for example up to 10% by weight of the active compound, soft and hard gelatin capsules, suppositories, injection solutions, suspensions, sterile packaged powders, and a topical patch.

The source of radiation, used in combination with a VEGF receptor antagonist, can be either external or internal to the patient being treated. When the source is external to the patient, the therapy is known as external beam radiation therapy (EBRT). When the source of radiation is internal to the patient, the treatment is called brachytherapy (BT).

The radiation is administered in accordance with well known standard techniques using standard equipment manufactured for this purpose, such as AECL Theratron and Varian Clinac. The dose of radiation depends on numerous factors as is well known in the art. Such factors include the organ being treated, the healthy organs in the path of the radiation that might inadvertently be adversely affected, the tolerance of the patient to radiation therapy, and the area of the body in need of treatment. The dose will typically be between 1 and 100 Gy, and more particularly between 2 and 80 Gy. Some doses that have been reported include 35 Gy to the spinal cord, 15 Gy to the kidneys, 20 Gy to the liver, and 65-80 Gy to the prostate. It should be emphasized, however, that the present invention is not limited to any particular dose. The dose will be determined by treating physician in accordance with particular factors in a given situation, including the factors mentioned above.

The distance between the source of the external radiation and the point of entry into the patient may be any distance that represents an acceptable balance between killing target cells and minimizing side effects. Typically, the source of the external radiation is between 70 cm and 100 cm from the point of entry into the patient.

Brachytherapy is generally carried out by placing the source of radiation in the patient. Typically, the source of radiation is placed approximately 0-3 cm from the tissue being treated. Known techniques include interstitial, intercavitary, and surface brachytherapy. The radioactive seeds can be implanted permanently or temporarily. Some typical radioactive atoms that have been used in permanent implants include iodine-125 and radon. Some typical radioactive atoms that have been used in temporary implants include radium, cesium-137, and iridium-192. Some additional radioactive atoms that have been used in brachytherapy include americium-241 and gold-198.

The dose of radiation for brachytherapy can be the same as that mentioned above for external beam radiation therapy. In addition to the factors mentioned above for determining the dose of external beam radiation therapy, the nature of the radioactive atom used is also taken into account in determining the dose of brachytherapy.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapeutic agents include all chemical compounds that are effective in inhibiting tumor growth. The administration of chemotherapeutic agents can be accomplished in a variety of ways including systemically by the parenteral and enteral routes. In one embodiment, the VEGF receptor antagonist and the chemotherapeutic agent are administered as separate molecules. In another embodiment, the VEGF receptor antagonist is attached, for example, by conjugation, to a chemotherapeutic agent.

Examples of chemotherapeutic agents include alkylating agents, for example, nitrogen mustards, ethyleneimine compounds and alkyl sulphonates; antimetabolites, for example, folic acid, purine or pyrimidine antagonists; mitotic inhibitors, for example, vinca alkaloids and derivatives of podophyllotoxin; cytotoxic antibiotics; compounds that damage or interfere with DNA expression.

Additionally, chemotherapeutic agents include antibodies, biological molecules and small molecules, as described 20 herein. Particular examples of chemotherapeutic agents or chemotherapy include cisplatin, dacarbazine (DTIC), dactinomycin, mechlorethamine (nitrogen mustard), streptozocin, cyclophosphamide, carmustine (BCNU), lomustine (CCNE), doxorubicin (adriamycin), daunorubicin, procarbazine, mito-25 mycin, cytarabine, etoposide, methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil, vinblastine, vincristine, bleomycin, paclitaxel (taxol), docetaxel (taxotere), aldesleukin, asparaginase, busulfan, carboplatin, cladribine, dacarbazine, floxuridine, fludarabine, hydroxyurea, ifosfamide, interferon alpha, leuprolide, mege- 30 strol, melphalan, mercaptopurine, plicamycin, mitotane, pegaspargase, pentostatin, pipobroman, plicamycin, streptozocin, tamoxifen, teniposide, testolactone, thioguanine, thiotepa, uracil mustard, vinorelbine, chlorambucil, taxol and combinations thereof.

The present invention also includes kits for inhibiting tumor growth comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an EGFR antagonist and a therapeutically effective amount of a VEGFR antagonist. The EGFR or VEGFR antagonist of the inventive kits can be any suitable antagonist, examples of 40 which have been described above. Preferably, the EGFR antagonist of the kit comprises an antibody or functional equivalent thereof, specific for EGFR. Alternatively, and also preferably, the EGFR antagonist of the kit comprises a small molecule specific for EGFR. The VEGFR antagonist of the 45 kit preferably comprises an antibody or functional equivalent thereof, specific for VEGFR. Alternatively, the VEGFR antagonist of the kit preferably comprises a small molecule specific for VEGFR. In addition, the kits of the present invention can further comprise an antineoplastic agent. Examples 50 of suitable antineoplastic agents in the context of the present invention have been described herein. The kits of the present invention can further comprise an adjuvant, examples of which have also been described above.

Accordingly, the receptor antibodies of the present invention can be used in vivo and in vitro for investigative, diagnostic, prophylactic, or treatment methods, which are well known in the art. Of course, it is to be understood and expected that variations in the principles of invention herein disclosed can be made by one skilled in the art and it is 60 intended that such modifications are to be included within the scope of the present invention.

EXAMPLES

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in further detail. It is to be understood, however, that these 22

examples are illustrative purpose only and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the present invention.

Example 1

Establishment of KDR-Fc Secreting Cell Line

The gene corresponding to the extracellular domains (ECDs) 1-3 of the KDR gene (accession no. AF063658 in GenBank) was amplified from a human placental cDNA library (Clonetech, USA). The amplification was carried out using the primers KDR 1F (SEQ ID NO: 21) and KDR 3R (SEQ ID NO: 22) having BamHI and NheI digestion sites respectively.

SEQ ID NO: 21: 5'-CGC GGATCC ATGGAG AGCAA-3'

SEQ ID NO: 22: 5'-CCGCTAGC TTTTTCATGGACCCTGACA-3'

To produce a KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc chimeric protein, a pcDNA3-BACE-Fc vector (Korean Patent Publication 10-2005-0032177) composed of a BACE-Fc protein gene inserted into a pcDNA3 vector (Invitrogen, USA) was digested with BamHI and NheI, and then ligated with the PCR fragment digested with the same restriction enzymes. The Fc domain was amplified by PCR using the primers ThFc-F (SEQ ID NO: 23) and MycFc-R (SEQ ID NO: 24) so as to have a thrombin digestion site and a myc tag, and the amplified fragment was ligated with the vector using NheI and XhoI sites, thus constructing pcDNA3-KDR D123tFcm.

SEQ ID NO: 23:
5'-CCGCTAGCAGCGGCCTGGTGCCGCGGCAGCG

ACAAAACTCAC-3':

SEQ ID NO: 24:
5'-GGCTCGAGTCACAGGTCTTCCTCAGAGATCA

GC TTCTGCTCTTACCCGGAGAC-3'

The pcDNA3-KDR D123tFcm consists of a base sequence encoding amino acid residues 1-327 comprising the secretion signal sequence and extracellular domain of human KDR, a base sequence encoding a thrombin recognition site (SS-GLVPRGS), a base sequence encoding 227 amino acids corresponding to the Fc domain of human immunoglobulin G (hlgG), and a base sequence (EQKLISEEDL) encoding the myc tag (FIG. 1).

For epitope mapping of antibodies, KDR (ECD1-2)-Fc (amino acid residues 1-222) and KDR(ECD2-3)-Fc (amino acid residues 1-327 (Δ 24-116)) were prepared. To clone KDR (ECD1-2), the prepared sequence was amplified by PCR using a primer KDR 1F (5'-CGC GGATCC ATGGAG AGCAA: SEQ ID NO: 25) and a primer KDR 12R (5'-CTA GCTAGC CCTAT ACCCT ACAAC GACA-3': SEQ ID NO: 26), and then the PCR amplified fragment was inserted into pcDNA3-KDR D123tFcm digested with BamHI and NheI, thus preparing pcDNA3-KDR D12tFcm. To clone KDR (ECD2-3), a PCR fragment of the primer KDR 1F and the primer KDR 23SR (SEQ ID NO: 26) and a PCR fragment of the primer KDR 23SF (SEQ ID NO: 27) and the primer KDR 23R (SEQ ID NO: 28) were amplified by overlap PCR. The resulting PCR fragment was inserted into pcDNA3-KDR D123tFcm using BamHI and NheI sites, thus preparing pcDNA3-KDR D23tFcm (FIG. 2).

TABLE 1-continued

SEQ ID NO: 26	::
SEQ ID NO: 27	': 5
SEQ ID NO: 28	ł:

To produce a KDR(ECD)-Fc chimeric protein, the aboveprepared pcDNA3-KDR D123tFcm vector was transfected 10 into CHO-DG44 cells (Aprogen, Korea), and the cells were cultured in α-MEM(GibCo, USA), containing 10% dFBS (Gibco, USA) and 500 µg/ml G418 (geneticin; Sigma, USA). To optimize the expression of the KDR(ECD)-Fc chimeric protein, the cells were cultured in CHO-SFM2 medium (Gibco) in the presence of MTX (methotrexate, Sigma), while the MTX concentration was increased. As a result, it was confirmed that the protein was optimally expressed at 700 nM MTX.

The produced protein was purified using protein A affinity 20 chromatography (protein A-Sepharose, GE healthcare) and size exclusion chromatography (Hiload superdex 200, GE healthcare) and stored in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 150 mM NaCl. FIG. 3 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc purified according to the above 25 method.

Example 2

Preparation of Complete Human (naïve) Single Chain Antibody (ScFv) Phage Display Library

Total RNA was obtained from five healthy bone-marrow donors using TRI reagents (Sigma), and based on the total RNA, mRNA was purified using an mRNA purification kit 35 (oligotex mRNA preparation kit, Qiagen, USA). The mRNA was treated using an RT-PCR system (ThermoScript RT-PCR system, Gibco-BRL, USA) to obtain cDNA. To obtain a VH gene, each of a V gene fragment and a DJ fragment was amplified using the primers shown in Table 1, and each of the $\,^{40}$ amplified DNA fragments was amplified by 2nd PCR using primers (SEQ ID NOS: 29-61) having SfiI restriction enzyme sites at the 5' end and the 3' end.

TABLE 1 Primer sequence for amplifying VH and DJ qene fraqments

		SEQ ID NO:	50
	VH gene-forward		
Н05	GARGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTC	29	
H06	CAGSTGCAGCTGCAGGAGTC	30	55
H08	CAGGTACAGCTGCAGCAGTC	31	
H09	CAGRTGCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGGG	32	
H11	GAGGTGCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGAGCA	33	60
H12	CAGGTTCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGAG	34	
H13	CAGGTTCAGCTGGTGCAGTCTGGGG	35	
H14	CAGGTCCAGCTGGTACAGTCTGGGG	36	65
H15	CAGGTCACCTTGAAGGAGTCTGGTCCTGT	37	

		SEQ I
H16	CAGATCACCTTGAAGGAGTCTGGTCCTAC	38
H17	CAGGTCACCTTGAGGGAGTCTGGTCCTGC	39
H25	GAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGTCTGGGGGAGGTG	40
H32	CAGGTGCAGCTACAGCAGTGGGGCG	41
	VH gene-back	
H210	AATACACGGCCGTGTCCTCAGATC	42
H210L	AATACACGGCCGTGTCCTCAGATCTCAGGCTG	43
	CTCAGCTCCATGTAGGCTGAG	
H211	AGCTCCATGTAGGCTGTGTCT	44
H212	AGCTCCATGTAGGCTGTGCTCATAGACC	45
H213	AGCTCCATGTAGGCTGTGCTTGTGGACA	46
H214	AGCTCCATGTAGGCTGTGCTTATGGAG	47
H220	AAGGACCACCTGCTTTTGGAGG	48
H230	AATACACGGCCGTGTCCTCGGCTCTCAGACTG	49
	TTCATT	
H240	AATACACGGCCTGTCCACGGCGG	50
H250	AATACATGGCGGTGTCCGAGGCCT	51
	DJ gene-forward	
CDR3-1	GATCTGAGGACACGGCCGTGTATTACTGT	52
CDR3-2	CCTCCAAAAGCCAGGTGGTCCTT	53
CDR3-3	GAGCCGAGGACACGGCCGTGTATTACTGT	54
CDR3-4	CCGCCGTGGACACGGCCGTGTATTACTGT	55
CDR3-5	AGGCCTCGGACACCGCCATGTATTACTGT	56
	DJ gene-back	
JH-U1	I CTGAGGAGACGGTGACC	57
	V-DJ fusion	
H48SfiI-	GCGATGGCCCAGCCGGCCATGGCCCAGRTGCA	58
for	GCTGGTRSAGTC	
H49SfiI-	GCGATGGCCCAGCCGGCCATGGCCCAGRTCAC	59
for	CTTGARGGAGTC	
H50SfiI-	GCGATGGCCCAGCCGGCCATGGCCCAGGTRCA	60
for	GCTRCAGSAGT	
H47SfiI-	GGAATTCGGCCCCCGAGGCCTGARGAGACRGT	61
	GACC	
back		

(Table 3) for kappa gene amplification, and each of the ampli-

fied fragments was subjected to 2^{nd} PCR using primers (lambda: SEQ ID NOS. 76-81, and kappa: SEQ ID NOS. 106-108) having a BstXI digestion site at the 5' end and the 3' end.

TABLE 3

	Primer	sequence	for	amplifying	Kappa	qene	fraqmen	t
_							SEQ]	ſΣ
5							NO:	
								_

			3		
	TABLE 2				Vκ forward
Primer sequ	uence for amplifying Lambda gene	<u>fraqment</u>		K12	GACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCCTCCC
		EQ ID NO:	10	K13	GACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCCTCA
	Vγ forward			K14	GACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCTTCYG
L01	CAGYCTGTGCTGACTCAG	62		K15	GACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCTTCCA
L03	CAGCCTGTGCTGACTCAAT	63	15	K16	AACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCTGCCA
L06	TCCTATGAGCTGACWCAG	64		K17	AACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCCTT
L15	CAGYCTGTGCTGACTCAGCCGT	65		K18	GCCATCCAGTTGACCCAGTCTCCAT
L20	CAGTCTGTGCTGACGCAGCCG	66	20	K19	GCCATCCGGATGACCCAGTCTCCATTCTCC
L23	CAGTCTGCCCTGACTCAGCCTC	67	20	K20	GTCATCTGGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCCTTA
L24	CAGTCTGCCCTGACTCAGCCTG	68		K21	GATATTGTGATGACCCAGACTCCACTCTCTGT
L25	CAGRCTGTGGTGACYCAGGAGCCCTCAC	69		K22	GATATTGTGATGACCCAGACTCCACTCTCCCTGC
L26	CAGRCTGTGGTGACYCAGGAGCCATCGT	70	25	K23	GATATTGTGATGACCCAGACTCCACTCTCCTCA
L28	TCCTATGAGCTGACWCAGCCACT	71		K24	GATRTTGTGATGACTCAGTCTCCACTCTC
L34B	AATTTTATGCTGACTCAGCCC	72		K25	GAAATTGTGTTGACRCAGTCTCCAG
	Vγ back		30	K27	GACATCGTGATGACCCAGTCTCCAG
L35	CCTCCTCCACCTAGGACGGTGACCTTGG	73		VKA1	GATGTTGTGATGACTCAGTCTCCACTCTCCCTGCC
	TCCCAGTT				CGTCACCCTTGGAC
L36	CCTCCTCCACCTAGGACGGTCAGCTTGG	74	35	VK10	GAAATTGTGCTGACTCAGTCTCCAGACTTT
	TCCCTCCG			VK30	GACATCCAGATGACCCAGTCTCCATCCTCCCTGTC
L37	CCTCCTCCACCGAGGGCGGTCAGCTGGG	75			TGCATCTGTAGGAG
	TGCCTCCT		40		Vĸ back
	Vγ 2nd PCR (BstXI)			K28	TCCTCCACGTTTGATTTCCACCTTGGTCCCTTG
L34BstXI-f	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCAATT	76		K29	TCCTCCACGTTTGATCTCCAGCTTGGTCCCC
	TTATGCTGACTCAGCCC		45	K30	TCCTCCACGTTTGATATCCACTTTGGTCCCAG
L40BStXI-f	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCCAGY	77		K31	TCCTCCACGTTTGATCTCCACCTTGGTCCCTCC
	CTGTGCTGACTCAGCC			K32	TCCTCCACGTTTAATCTCCAGTCGTGTCCCT
L41B stXI-f	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCCAGC	78	50		Vk BstXI
	CTGTGCTGACTCAATC		50	K33BstXI	- GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCGACATCCAGA
L42BstXI-f	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCCAGT	79		for	TGACCCAGTCTCC
	CTGCCCTGACTCAGCC				- GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCGATATTGTGA
L43BstXI-f	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCCAGR	80	55	for	TGACCCAGWCTCC
	CTGTGGTGACYCAGGA				- GAATTCCACGAGGCTGGCTCCTCCACGTTTGATH
L44BstXI-fe	or GGTGGATCCAGCGGTGTGGGTTCCTCCT	81		back	TCCA
	ATGAGCTGACWCAG		60		C or T; W: A or T
L38BstXI-ba	ack GAATTCCACGAGGCTGGCTCCTCCACCK	82			
				To intro	oduce the VH gene fragment and the VL gene

To introduce the VH gene fragment and the VL gene fragment into a phagemid vector, a pAK100 vector (Krebber, A. et al., *J. Immunol. Method.*, 201:35, 1997) was used. To introduce the VL gene fragment, three BstXI domains (236, 365 and 488) present in the lac repressor gene (lad) of the pAK100

AGGRCGGT

vector were mutated using the Quikchange site-specific mutagenesis kit (Stratagene, USA). Using the modified pAK100 vector, to prepare a backbone vector for the construction of the ScFv library, the heavy chain V gene, amplified using the H05 primer (SEQ ID NO: 29) and the H230 5 primer (SEQ ID NO: 49), and the DJ gene fragment, amplified using the CDR3-3 primer (SEQ ID NO: 54) and the JH-U1 primer (SEQ ID NO: 57), were subjected to 2^{nd} PCR with H48SfiI (SEQ ID NO: 58)/H47SfiI (SEQ ID NO: 61), and the resulting heavy chain variable region was digested 10 with SfiI and ligated into the modified pAK100 vector digested with the same enzyme. To introduce a light chain and a linker, the heavy chain region was amplified using primers (forward: SEQ ID NO: 109; and backward: SEQ ID NO: 110), and the light chain sequence of the human 4-1BB antibody (LB506) (Korean Patent Publication 2000-0034847) was amplified using each of primers (forward: SEQ ID NO: 111; and backward: SEQ ID NO: 112). The amplified fragments were inserted into the modified pAK100 vector having the heavy chain variable domain introduced therein, using 20 XbaI/EcoRI, thus preparing an antibody library backbone vector.

SEQ ID NO: 109: 5'-CGAATTTCTAGATAACGA-3'

SEQ ID NO: 110: 5'-CCTCCGCCACTACCTCCTCCGAGGCCCCCGAGGCCTGA-3'

SEQ ID NO: 111: 5'-GGTAGTGGCGGAGGAGGCTCCGGTGGA TCCAGCGGTGTGG

GTTCCGATATTGTG-3'

SEQ ID NO: 112:

5'-CTCGAATTCCCACGAGGCTGGCTCCTCCACGTTTGATTTC-3'

In order to introduce light chain variable regions, each of 35 amplified light chain (κ,λ) variable regions was digested with BstXI and inserted into the antibody library backbone vector. The resulting plasmid was digested with a SfiI restriction enzyme and ligated with a heavy chain variable region-amplified PCR fragment previously digested with SfiI. The 40 ligated plasmid was transfected into ElectroTen-Blue competent cells (Stratagene, USA). As a result, a ScFv phage library having a diversity of about 10^{11} was collected from the colony.

Example 3

Biopanning

The library stock constructed in Example 2 was grown to the log phase and rescued with the M13K07 helper phage (GE healthcare, USA). The resulting library was amplified in 2×YT medium (2×YT/C/K; containing 34 µg/ml of chloramphenicol and 70 µg/ml of kanamycin and supplemented with 1 mM IPTG) at 30° C. overnight. Phage stock was precipitated in 20% PEG6000/2.5M NaCl and resuspended in PBS. Resuspended phage stock was incubated in 2% skimmed milk/PBS solution containing 500 µg/ml of a human Fc protein at 37° C. for 1 hour in order to remove phages showing anti-human Fc.

The KDR (human VEGFR-2) used as an antigen was KDR (ECD1-3)-Fc comprising IgG-like domains 1, 2 and 3 of the extracellular domain of KDR. The KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc stable cell line prepared in Example 1 was cultured, and KDR (ECD1-3)-Fc was purified from the cultured cell line.

Maxisorb Star tubes (Nunc, Denmark) coated with KDR (ECD1-3)-Fc (10 μg/ml) were first blocked with 2% skimmed

28

milk/PBS at room temperature for 2 hours, and then inoculated with 5.4×10^{12} pfu of the phage stock at room temperature for 1 hour.

The tubes were washed 10 times with PBST (PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20), and then washed 10 times with PBS. The bound phage was eluted with 1 ml of 100 mM fresh triethylamine solution at room temperature for 10 minutes. The eluted phage was left to stand together with 10 ml of mid-logphase XL1-Blue cells at 37° C. for 30 minutes, and then shake-cultured for 30 minutes. Then, the infected XL1-Blue cells were cultured in a 1% glucose-containing $2\times YT/C$ plate at 30° C. overnight. Following the first panning, the second and third panning processes were performed by coating KDR (ECD1-3)-Fc into a 96-well plate (Nunc, USA) instead of the maxisorp tube. After the third panning was performed, the KDR neutralizing ability of the obtained phage was analyzed through VEGF competition assays.

For VEGF competition assays, a microplate coated with 200 ng of VEGF165 (R&D system) overnight was allowed to react with 2% skimmed milk/PBS at 37° C. for 2 hours. The microplate was washed with PBS, and then a mixture, obtained by reacting 10 ng of KDR (ECD1-3)-Fc with various amounts of phage at room temperature for 1 hour, was placed in each well of the plate and allowed to react at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction solution was washed with PBS, allowed to react with a rabbit anti-KDR antibody (Reliatech, Germany) at 37° C. for 1 hour, and allowed to react with an HRP (horse radish peroxidase)-conjugated goat antirabbit antibody (Abcam, UK) at 37° C. for 1 hour. After the completion of the reaction, each well was color-developed with a TMB solution (Sigma), and then measured for absorbance at 450 nm (FIG. 4).

As a result, it was seen that 6A6, 6H1, 6G1 and 6C1 could all inhibit the binding of VEGF to KDR, and among them, 6A6 and 6H1 showed the highest ability to neutralize VEGF. Also, 6A6 and 6H1 were shown to have a binding affinity similar to that of a reconstructed 1C11 (hereinafter referred to as 1C11) phage obtained in Example 4. The DNA sequences, amino acid sequences and CDR sequences of 6A6 (TTAC-0001) ScFv are shown in FIG. 5.

Also, the base sequences and amino acid sequences of 6A6 (TTAC-0001) ScFv were expressed as heavy chain CDR 1 (SEQ ID NO: 113 and SEQ ID NO: 114), heavy chain CDR 2 (SEQ ID NO: 115 and SEQ ID NO: 116), heavy chain CDR 3 (SEQ ID NO: 117 and SEQ ID NO: 118), light chain CDR 1 (SEQ ID NO: 119 and SEQ ID NO: 120), light chain CDR 2 (SEQ ID NO: 121 and SEQ ID NO: 122), light chain CDR 3 (SEQ ID NO: 123 and SEQ ID NO: 124), heavy chain variable regions (SEQ ID NO: 125 and SEQ ID NO: 20), light chain variable regions (SEQ ID NO: 126 and SEQ ID NO: 1), IgG heavy chain regions (SEQ ID NO: 127 and SEQ ID NO: 128), and IgG light chain regions (SEQ ID NO: 129 and SEQ ID NO: 130).

Example 4

Construction of Reconstructed IMC-1121(rIMC-1121) and IMC-1C11(rIMC-1C11) Phage Vectors

In order to obtain IMC-1C11 ScFv (PCT/US2001/10504) and IMC-1121 ScFv (PCT/US2002/006762) phage particles (Imclone) to be used as positive control groups, the ScFv region of each antibody was cloned into the pAK vector.

For IMC-1C11, a light chain variable gene was cloned using, as a template, a pTA-d9-07 clone (LG Life Sciences) obtained from a mouse na Δ ve antibody library (LG Life

Sciences). The clone was amplified by PCR using the LR and LF primers shown in Table 4, and the amplified light chain variable gene was digested with BstXI and ligated into a library backbone vector pretreated with BstXI. A heavy chain variable gene was amplified by PCR using a pTA-A5N2-10 clone (LG Life Sciences) as a template with the primers shown in Table 4. After each of the PCR reactions was performed using each of the primer pairs HF1-RI(A), HF2-HR2 (B), HF3-HR3(C) and HF4-HR4(D), and each of the ampli-

fied fragments was amplified by overlap PCR using A-B (HF1-HR2 primer set) and C-D (HF3-HR4 primer pair), and then amplified by overlap PCR using A-B-C-D (HF1-HR4 primer pair). Then, each of the amplified fragments was treated with SfiI and ligated with the 1C11 light chain genecontaining library backbone vector treated with SfiI. Table 4 shows the Pe1B signal sequence and DNA sequence to amber (TGA) codon of the phage vector (pAK-r1c11).

30

TABLE 4

	LR and LF	primer		
Name Sequence				SEQ ID NO:
pTA-d9_07 GACATTGTTC	TCATCCAGTC	TCCAGCAATC	ATGTCTGCAT	131
light chain CTCCAGGGGA	GAAGGTCACC	ATAACCTGCA	GTGCCAGCTC	
AAGTGTAAGT	TACATGCACT	GGTTCCAGCA	GAAGCCAGGC	
ACTTCTCCCA	AACTCTGGAT	TTATAGCACA	TCCAACCTGG	
CTTCTGGAGT	CCCTGCTCGC	TTCAGTGGCA	GTGGATCTGG	
GACCTCTTAC	TCTCTCACAA	TCAGCCGAAT	GGAGGCTGAA	
GATGCTGCCA	CTTATTACTG	CCAGCAAAGG	AGTAGTTACC	
CATTCACGTT	CGGCTCGGGG	ACAAAGTTGG	AAATAAAA	
pTA-A5N ² -10 CAGGTTCAGC	TCCAGCAGTC	TGGGGCAGAG	CTTGTGAGGT	132
heavy chain CAGGGGCCTC	AGTCAAGTTG	TCCTGCACAG	CTTCTGGCTT	
CAACATTAAA	GACTACTATA	TGCACTGGGT	GAAGCAGAGG	
CCTGAACAGG	GCCTGGAGTG	GATTGGATGG	ATTGATCCTG	
CGAATGGTAA	TACTAAATAT	GACCCGAAGT :	rccagggcaa	
GGCCACTATA	ACAGCAGACA	CATCCTCCAA	CACAGCCTAC	
CTGCAGCTCA	GCAGCCTGAC	ATCTGAGGAC	ACTGCCGTCT	
ATTACTGTGC	TAGATGGGAC	TGGTACTTCG	ATGTCTGGGG	
CGCAGGGACC	ACGGTCACCG	TTTCC		
LF CTGCAGAACC	AGCGGTGTGG	GTTCCGACAT	CGAGCTCACT	133
CAGTCTCCAT	G			
LR CTGCAGAACC	ACGAGGCTGG	CTCCTCCACG	TTTTATTTCC	134
AGCTTGGTCC	CCG			
HF1 CGGCCCAGCC	GGCCATGGCC	CAGGTCAAGC	TGCAGCAGTC	135
TGGGGCAGAG	CTTGTGGGGT	CAGGGGCC		
HF2 GGCTTCAACA	TTAAAGACTT	CTATATGCA		136
HF3 GATTATGCCC	CGAAGTTCCA	GGGCAAGGCC	ACCATGACTG	137
CAGACTCATC	CTCCA			
HF4 TACTGTAATG	CATACTATGG	TGACTACGAA	GGCTACTGGG	138
GCCAA				
HR1 GTCTTTAATG	TTGAAGCCAG	AAGTTGTGCA	G	139
HR2 ACTTCGGGGC	ATAATCAGAA	TCACCATTCT	CAGGATCAAT	140
CCATCCAATC				
HR3 GTATGCATTA	CAGTAATAG			141

TABLE 4-continued

	TA	ABLE 4-CO	ntinuea	
		LR and LF 1	primer	
Name	Sequence			SEQ ID NO:
HR4	CCGAGGCCCC	CGAGGCCTGA	GGAGACGGTG ACCGTGGTC	C 142
	CTTGGCCCCA	GTAGCCTTCG	TA	
r1C11-ScFv	ATGAAATACC	TATTGCCTAC	GGCAGCCGCTGGATTGTTAT	143
DNA	TACTCGCGGC	CCAGCCGGCC	ATGGCCCAGG TCAAGCTGC	A
	GCAGTCTGGG	GCAGAGCTTG	TGGGGTCAGG GGCCTCAGT	С
	AAATTGTCCT	GCACAACTTC	TGGCTTCAAC ATTAAAGAC	Т
	TCTATATGCA	CTGGGTGAAG	CAGAGGCCTG AACAGGGCC	Т
	GGAGTGGATT	GGATGGATTG	TCCTGAGAA TGGTGATTCT	
	GATTATGCCC	CGAAGTTCCA	GGGCAAGGCC ACCATGACT	G
	CAGACTCATC	CTCCAACACA	GCCTACCTGC AGCTCAGCA	G
	CCTGACATCT	GAGGACACTG	CCGTCTATTA CTGTAATGC	A
	TACTATGGTG	ACTACGAAGG	CTACTGGGGC CAAGGGACC	A
	CGGTCACCGT	CTCCTCAGGC	CTCGGGGGCC TCGGAGGAG	G
	AGGTAGTGGC	GGAGGAGGCT	CCGGTGGATC CAGCGGTGT	G
	GGTTCCGACA	TCGAGCTCAC	TCAGTCTCCA GCAATCATG	Т
	CTGCATCTCC	AGGGGAGAAG	GTCACCATAA CCTGCAGTG	C
	CAGCTCAAGT	GTAAGTTACA	TGCACTGGTT CCAGCAGAA	G
	CCAGGCACTT	CTCCCAAACT	CTGGATTTAT AGCACATCC	A
	ACCTGGATTA	TGGAGTCCCT	GCTCGCTTCA GTGGCAGTG	G
	ATCTGGGACC	TCTTACTCTC	TCACAATCAG CCGAATGGA	G
	GCTGAAGATG	CTGCCACTTA	TTACTGCCAG CAAAGGAGT	A
	GTTACCCATT	CACGTTCGGC	TCGGGGACCA AGCTGGAAA	Т
	AAAACGTGGA	GGAGCCAGCC	TCGTGGAATT CGAGCAGAA	G
	CTGATCTCTG	AGGAAGACCT	GTAG	

In order to obtain IMC-1121, 6G1 was used as a template to clone a light chain variable region. The 6G1 template was amplified by PCR using the primer pairs LF-KR1(A), LF1-LR2(B), LF2-LR3(C) and LF3-LR4(D), was amplified by overlap PCR using A-B (LF-LR2 primer set) and C-D (LF2-LR primer pair), and was then amplified by overlap PCR using A-B-C-D (LF-LR primer pair). The obtained PCR fragment was treated with BstXI and inserted into the library backbone vector (reconstructed IMC-1121; hereinafter referred to as IMC-1121). The primers used herein are shown in Table 5.

For the heavy chain variable region, the YGKL-136 clone having a sequence closest to IMC-1121 among the clone sequences obtained from the human na Ave scFv library (Example 2) was used as a template. The YGKL-136 clone was amplified by PCR using each of the primer pairs HF-HR1 (A), HF1-HR2(B) and HF2-HR(C), was subjected to A+B overlap PCR (HF-HR2 primer pair), and was then subjected to A+B and C overlap PCR (HF-HR primer pair). The produced PCR fragment was treated with SfiI and ligated into a light chain-containing library backbone vector.

TABLE 5

_											
	LF	and	HF	primer	for	cloning	light	chain	variable	regio	on
Ī											
										SE	Q ID
	Na	me	5	Sequence	•					1	10:
-	VGKI.	-136	5 (ZAGGTGCZ	v.c.c	таатаада	רכ דפפי	GG AGGC	СТССТСД	AGC 1	144

heavy chain CTGGGGGGTC CCTGAGACTC TCCTGTGCAG CCTCTGGATT

TABLE 5-continued

LF and H	F primer fo	r cloning l	ight chain	variable re	qion
Name	Sequence				SEQ ID NO:
(template)	CACCTTCAGT	AGCTATAGCA	TGAACTGGGT	CCGCCAGGCT	
	CCAGGGAAGG	GGCTGGAGTG	GGTCTCATCC	ATTAGTAGTA	
	GTAGTAGTTA	CATACACTAC	GCAGACTCAG	TGAAGGGCCG	
	ATTCACCATC	TCCAGAGACA	ACGCCAAGAA	CTCACTGTAT	
	CTGCAAATGA	ACAGTCTGAG	AGCCGAGGAC	ACGGCCGTGT	
	ATTACTGTGC	GAGAGTCACA	GATGCTTTTG	ATATCTGGGG	
	CCCCGGAACC	CTGGTCACCG	TCTCCTCA		
6G1 light	GACATCCAGA	TGACCCAGTC	TCCATCTTCC	GTGTCTGCAT	145
chain	CTGTAGGAGA	CAGAGTCACC	ATCACTTGTC	GGGCGAGTCA	
(template)	GGGTATTAGC	AGCTATTTAG	GCTGGTATCA	GCAGAAACCA	
	GGGAAAGCCC	CTAAGCTCCT	GATCTATGCT	GCATCCAATT	
	TGCAAACAGG	GGTCCCGCCA	AGGTTCAGCG	GCAGTGGATC	
	CGGGACAAGT	TTCACTCTCA	CCCTCAATAA	TGTGCAGCCT	
	GAAGATTCTG	CAACTTACTA	TTGTCAACAG	GCTGACAGTT	
	TCCCTCTTTC	GGCGGAGGGA	CCAAAGTGGA	AATCAAACGT	
	GAGGAGCC				
LF primer	CCCCAGCGGT	GTGGGTTCCG	ACA		146
LR1 primer	TGGTGACTCT	GTCTCCTATA	GATGCAGACA	CGGATGAT	147
LF1 primer	TCTATAGGAG	ACAGAGTCAC	CA		148
LR2 primer	TACCAGCCTA	ACCAGTTGTC	AATACCCTGA	CTCGCCCG	149
LF2 primer	TTGACAACTG	GTTAGGCTGG	TATCAGCAGA	AACCAGGG	150
	AAA				
LR3 primer	ACCTTGATGG	GACCCCTGTG	TCCAAATTGG	ATGCATCATA	151
	GATCAGGAGC	TT			
LR primer	CCCCACGAGG	CTGGCTCCTC	CA		152
HF primer	CCGGCCCAGC	CGGCCATGGC	CGAGGTGCAG	CTGGTGCAGT	153
	CTGGGGGAGG	CCTGGTCA			
_	GTAGTAGTAG				154
HF2 primer	TTACTGTGCG	AGAGTCACAG	ATGCTTTTGA	TATCTGGGGC	155
	CAAGGGACAA				
HR1 primer	TCACTGAGTC	TGCGTAGTAT	ATGTAACTAC	TACTACT	156
HR2 primer	CTGTGACTCT	CGCACAGTAA	TACA		157
HR primer	CCGGCCCCCG	AGGCCTGAGG	AGACGGTGAC	CATTGTCCCT	158
	TGGCCCCAG				
r1121-ScFv	ATGAAATACC				159
DNA	TACTCGCGGC	CCAGCCGGCC	ATGGCCGAGG	TGCAGCTGGT	
	GCAGTCTGGG	GGAGGCCTGG	TCAAGCCTGG	GGGGTCCCTG	

TABLE 5-continued

LF and H	F primer for	r cloning l	iqht chain '	variable re	qion_
Name	Sequence				SEQ ID
	AGACTCTCCT	GTGCAGCCTC	TGGATTCACC	TTCAGTAGCT	
	ATAGCATGAA	CTGGGTCCGC	CAGGCTCCAG	GGAAGGGGCT	
	GGAGTGGGTC	TCATCCATTA	GTAGTAGTAG	TAGTTACATA	
	TACTACGCAG	ACTCAGTGAA	GGGCCGATTC	ACCATCTCCA	
	GAGACAACGC	CAAGAACTCA	CTGTATCTGC	AAATGAACAG	
	TCTGAGAGCC	GAGGACACGG	CCGTGTATTA	CTGTGCGAGA	
	GTCACAGATG	CTTTTGATAT	CTGGGGCCAA	GGGACAATGG	
	TCACCGTCTC	CTCAGGCCTC	GGGGGCCTCG	GAGGAGGAGG	
	TAGTGGCGGA	GGAGGCTCCG	GTGGATCCAG	CGGTGTGGGT	
	TCCGACATCC	AGATGACCCA	GTCTCCATCT	TCCGTGTCTG	
	CATCTATAGG	AGACAGAGTC	ACCATCACTT	GTCGGGCGAG	
	TCAGGGTATT	GACAACTGGT	TAGGCTGGTA	TCAGCAGAAA	
	CCTGGGAAAG	CCCCTAAACT	CCTGATCTAC	GATGCATCCA	
	ATTTGGACAC	AGGGGTCCCA	TCAAGGTTCA	GTGGAAGTGG	
	ATCTGGGACA	TATTTTACTC	TCACCATCAG	TAGCCTGCAA	
	GCTGAAGATT	TTGCAGTTTA	TTTCTGTCAA	CAGGCTAAAG	
	CTTTTCCTCC	CACTTTCGGC	GGAGGGACCA	AGGTGGACAT	
	CAAACGTGGA	GGAGCCAGCC	TCGTGGAATT	CGAGCAGAAG	
	CTGATCTCTG	AGGAAGACCT	GTGA		

Example 5

Production and Purification of Soluble ScFv

To prepare soluble 6A6 ScFv, pAK-6A6, having a pelB sequence and an ScFv sequence, was digested with EcoRI and XbaI to obtain a fragment, having the pelB sequence and 45 transformed into E. coli BL21(DE3). the ScFv sequence. The fragment was inserted into the pET21b vector (Novagen, USA) using the same restriction enzymes. To add an myc tag to the vector inserted with the fragment having the pelB sequence and the ScFv sequence, the pET21b vector, inserted with the pelB sequence and the 50 ScFv sequence, as a template, was amplified by PCR using primers (mycFor: SEQ ID NO: 160, and mycRev: SEQ ID NO: 161), and the PCR fragment was ligatged into the vector having the pelB sequence and the ScFv sequence, using EcoRI and XhoI, thus constructing pET21b-KDR 6A6.

SEO ID NO: 160: 5'-GAGCCAGCCTCGTGGAATTCGAACAAAAA-3' SEQ ID NO: 161: 60 5'-TGCTCGAGAT TCAGATCCTC TTCTGAGATG AGTTTTTGTT GAATTCCACG AGGCT-3'

For kinetic measurement, a V5 tag sequence (GKPIPN-PLLGLDST) was inserted in an XhoI site downstream of the 65 myc tag in the following manner. The resulting sequence was amplified by PCR using primers (V5-For: SEQ ID NO: 162,

and V5-Rev: SEO ID NO: 163) amplifying the EcoRI and V5 40 tag sequence-containing XhoI digestion sites of the pET21b-KDR 6A6, and the amplified fragment was digested with EcoRI and XhoI and ligated into the pET21b-KDR 6A6 digested with the same restriction enzymes, thus constructing pETV-KDR 6A6. The constructed pETV-KDR 6A6 was

SEQ ID NO: 162: 5'-CCAGCCTCGTGGAATTC GAAC-3' SEQ ID NO: 163: 5'-CCGCTCGAG GGTGGAGTC CAGACCTAATAG AGGGTT TGGGATCGG CTTTCCATTCAGATC CTCTTCTGA-3'

The E. coli BL21(DE3) cells transformed with the pETV-55 KDR 6A6 were cultured to express the soluble ScFv protein and centrifuged, and a periplasmic fraction was collected from the cells using 50 mM Tris (pH 8.0) solution containing 20% sucrose and 200 μg/ml of a lysozyme and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Swiss). The obtained fraction was purified using Ni-NTI affinity chromatography (Hisprep, GE healthcare, USA) and ion exchange chromatography (Q-sepharose, SP-sepharose, GE healthcare, USA), thus obtaining an ScFv protein.

For 6A6, the Hisprep column was equilibrated using a solution containing 20 mM imidazole, 0.4M NaCl and 1×PBS, and the periplasmic fraction was placed in the column and eluted with 300 mM imidazole-containing solution

(300 mM imidazole, 0.4M NaCl/1×PBS). The eluted protein was dialyzed with 50 mM imidazole (pH 6.7) solution, and then eluted using cation exchange chromatography while increasing the concentration of NaCl to 0.5M. The eluted protein was concentrated (centriprep YM10, milipore, USA), and then dialyzed and stored in PBS solution. FIG. 6 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of the purified 6A6 ScFv.

Example 6

VEGF Competition Assays with VEGF

In order to examine whether the isolated ScFv can inhibit the binding of KDR to VEGF, competition assays were performed. For this purpose, 20 ng of VEGF165 was coated into a 96-well microtiter plate at room temperature overnight, and then allowed to react with 2% skimmed milk/PBS at 37° C. for 2 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the plate was washed with PBS, and then mixture solutions, obtained by allowing 100 ng of Fc-digested KDR(ECD1-3) to react with 20 various amounts of ScFv at room temperature for 1 hour, were placed in the microtiter plate and allowed to react at room temperature for 2 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the plate was washed with PBS, and then an anti-KDR mouse antibody (5 µg/ml, Reliatech, Germany) was added thereto 25 and allowed to react at 37° C. for 1 hour. Then, a 1:5000 dilution of an HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibody (Abcam, UK) was added thereto and allowed to react for 1 hours, and then TMB solution was added thereto and allowed to react. Then, the cells in each well of the plate were mea- 30 sured for absorbance at 450 nm and 650 nm. FIG. 7 shows the results of VEGF competitive assays with the anti-KDR-ScFv purified in Example 5. As shown in FIG. 7, it can be seen that only 6A6-ScFv shows a potent ability to neutralize KDR.

Example 7

Epitope Mapping with Anti-KDR ScFv Antibody

In order to examine which anti-KDR ScFv antibodies bind 40 to which domain of extracellular domains 1-3 of KDR, 3 μg/ml of each of the KDR(ECD1-2), KDR(ECD2-3) and KDR(ECD 1-3)-Fc prepared according to the method of Example 1 was coated into a 96-well plate by reaction at 37° C. for 2 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the plate 45 was washed with PBS, and then the portion of the plate, which has not been coated with the KDR protein, was blocked with 2% skimmed milk/PBS. Then, the plate was washed again with PBS, and then 330 nM anti-KDR ScFv antibody was added thereto and allowed to react at 37° C. for 1 hour and 30 50 minutes. After the completion of the reaction, the plate was washed again with PBS, and then a 1:500 dilution of an HRP-conjugated rabbit anti-6×His antibody (Abcam, UK) was added thereto and allowed to react at 37° C. for 1 hour. Then, the cells in each well were color-developed with TMB 55 solution and measured for absorbance at 450 nm.

As a result, it could be seen that 6A6 was bound to the extracellular domain 3 of KDR in the same manner as IMC-1121 (FIG. 8). However, 6G1 and 6C1 were more strongly bound to the domain 1, even though the absorbance was low. 60

Example 8

Expression and Purification of IgG

For expression in the form of whole IgG, heavy chain and light chain expression vectors, each comprising a whole con-

38

stant region, were prepared. For the heavy chain expression vector, a pIgGHD vector (Aprogen, Korea) having a heavy chain backbone of human 4-1 bb was treated with SfiI, and then ligated with a fragment, obtained by treating the heavy chain variable region of pAK-ScFv with SfiI, thus constructing an expression vector pIgGHD-6A6Hvy, comprising a whole constant region and a heavy chain region (FIG. 9).

For the light chain expression vector, a pIgGLD vector (Aprogen, Korea) having a light chain backbone of human 4-1 bb was treated with BstXI, and then ligated with a fragment, obtained by treating the light chain variable region of pAK-ScFv with BstXI, thus constructing an expression vector pIgGLD-6A6Lgt, comprising a whole constant region and a light chain region (FIG. 10). In the case of IMC-1C11 and 1121, IgG expression vectors were constructed in the same manner as described above.

For the expression of IgG, the same amount of the light chain expression vector (pIgGHD-6A6Hvy for the 6A6 clone) and the heavy chain expression vector (pIgGLD-6A6Lgt for the 6A6 clone) were co-transfected into CHO DG44 cells (Aprogen, Korea). The co-transfected cells were cultured in $\alpha\text{-MEM}$ medium containing 10% dFBS and 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of G418, and then a clone having the highest protein expression level was selected, while MTX was added thereto at a concentration ranging from 10 nM to 700 nM.

For the expression of antibodies, the cells were cultured in CHO-SF2 medium, containing 700 nM MTX, at 37° C., and the culture was collected. 6A6-IgG was purified from the combined supernatant by affinity chromatography using a protein A column (GE healthcare, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The supernatant was poured into the protein A column equilibrated with a solution containing 20 mM sodium phosphate (pH 7.0) and 100 mM NaCl and was washed with a solution containing 20 mM sodium phosphate (pH 7.0), 1 mM EDTA and 500 mM NaCl. Then, the protein was eluted with a 0.1 M glycine-HCl (pH 3.3) solution containing 100 mM NaCl. The eluted protein was neutralized with 1 M Tris. The eluted protein was mixed with 5 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) at a ratio of 1:1, and then poured into a prepacked SP-Sepharose column (GE healthcare) equilibrated with 5 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.0) containing 50 mM NaCl. The protein bound to the column was eluted with a sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 50 mM NaCl and was poured into a prepacked Q-sepharose column (GE healthcare) equilibrated with an elution buffer, and unbound protein was collected. The collected protein was concentrated with 30 Kd vivaspin 20 (Sartorius) and dialyzed with PBS. FIG. 11 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of the 6A6 IgG protein purified according to the above-described method.

Example 9

Competition Assays of Anti-KDR IgG with Various VEGFs

Competition assays of anti-KDR IgG with VEGF were carried out in the same manner as the VEGF competition assays of KDR ScFv, conducted in Example 6 using VEGF165. As a result, 6A6 IgG among anti-IgGs showed the highest ability to neutralize KDR, similar to the results of the competition assays conducted with ScFv, and it showed KDR neutralizing ability similar to that of the IMC-1121 anti-KDR IgG reconstructed on the basis of the amino acid sequence (FIG. 12).

Also, in order to examine the binding and competition of 6A6 IgG with isotypes and VEGF families other than

40

VEGF165, 200 ng of each of VEGF121, VEGF165, VEGF-C, VEGF-D and VEGF-E was coated into a 96-well plate, and then competition assays were carried out in the same manner as in Example 6. As a result, 6A6 IgG showed VEGF neutralizing ability by binding to VEGF121, VEGF165 and VEGF-E, which belong to VEGF-A, and it did not bind to VEGF-C and VEGF-D (FIG. 13).

Example 10

Analysis of Binding Affinity of Anti-KDR ScFv and IgG

The binding affinity of the antibodies to KDR (VEGFR-2) was measured with BIAcore (GE healthcare). In the case of ScFv, KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc was immobilized onto a CM5 chip (GE healthcare, Sweden) according to the manufacturer's manual, and in the case of V5-tagged ScFv, a V5 antibody (Abchem, UK) was immobilized onto the chip. The 20 V5-tagged ScFv was bound to the CM5 chip having the V5 antibody immobilized thereon, and then Fc-free KDR (ECD1-3) was allowed to run on the chip surface, thus obtaining sensorgrams. In the case of IgG, as in the case of the ScFv having no V5, KDR(ECD1-3)-Fc was immobilized onto the 25 CM5 chip, and then various amounts of the antibody was allowed to run on the chip surface, thus obtaining sensorgrams. Based on the sensorgram obtained at each concentration, the kinetic constants k_{on} and k_{off} were measured, and K_d was calculated from the ratio of the kinetic constants koff/kon

As a result, it was confirmed that, among various ScFvs, ScFv having a high binding affinity for KDR was 6A6. Also, when 6A6 was converted in the form of IgG, the Kd value thereof was about 2-fold lower than that of IMC-1121. This suggests that 6A6 IgG was more strongly bound to KDR compared to IMC-1121.

TABLE 6

K_d (M) value of anti-KDR ScFv, IgG					
				IgG	
	ScFv	ScFv-V5	$k_{on} (1/Ms)$	$k_{\it off}(1/s)$	$K_d(M)$
6A6 6H1	1.11E-08 N/A	6.93E-09 N/A	3.17E+05 5.02E+04	7.3E-05 7.20E-03	2.3E-10 1.43E-07
6G1 6C1 IMC-1121b	4.11E-07 4.31E-08 N/A	3.31E-08 N/A N/A	9.06E+04 1.38E+05 2.27E+05	5.48E-03 9.58E-03 8.75E-05	6.05E-08 6.95E-08 3.85E-10

^{*}N/A (not applicable)

Example 11

Analysis of KDR Neutralizing Ability of Anti-KDR-IgG in HUVEC Cells Using FACS Analysis

Primary-cultured HUVEC cells were cultured in serum-free medium overnight to induce the overexpression of KDR, 60 and then the cells were harvested, washed three times with PBS. The washed cells were allowed to react with 6A6 or IMC-1C11 IgG (10 μ g/ml) at 4° C. for 1 hour, and then allowed to react with an FITC-labeled rabbit anti-human IgG antibody (Abchem, UK) for 60 minutes. After completion of 65 the reaction, the cells were washed and analyzed with a flow cytometer (FACS; model EPICS9, Coulter Corp., USA).

As a result, as shown in FIG. 14, IMC-1C11 and 6A6 recognized the KDR of HUVEC cells at the same level.

Also, in order to examine competitive inhibitory ability against VEGF, HUVEC cells were cultured in a serum-free condition overnight to induce the expression of KDR, and then the cells were harvested and washed three times with PBS. The washed cells were allowed to react with 20 ng/ml of VEGF at room temperature for 30 minutes. After the completion of the reaction, the cells were allowed to react with 6A6-IgG and IMC-1C11 IgG at 4° C. for 1 hour, and then allowed to react with an FITC-labeled rabbit anti-human IgG antibody at 4° C. for 30 minutes.

As a result, as shown in FIG. 15, it was observed that the two antibodies all showed a signal of binding to VEGF165, indicating that 6A6-IgG was competitively bound to VEGF. Also, in the VEGF competition assays, 6A6-IgG and IMC-1C11 IgG showed the same level of KDR-neutralizing ability, but the KDR neutralizing ability in actual living cells was about two-fold higher for 6A6-IgG than for IMC-1C11 IgG.

Example 12

Analysis of KDR Neutralizing Ability of Anti KDR-IgG in K562 Cells

In order to examine the KDR binding affinity of the antibodies in KDR expressing cells lines other than HUVEC cells, the expression of KDR in the leukemia cell line K562 (ATCC CCL-243) was analyzed. FIG. 16 shows the results of Western blot analysis for the expression of KDR in K562 (ATCC CCL-243) cells. As shown in FIG. 16, K562 and HUVEC cells expressed KDR regardless of the presence or absence of serum. Thus, the K562 cells (ATCC CCL-243) were treated in the same manner as the HUVEC cells of Example 11 and analyzed by FACS in order to examine whether KDR-IgG could bind to the K562 cells.

As a result, as shown in FIG. 17, only 6A6-IgG was bound to the K562 cells at a significant level, unlike the HUVEC cells. The results of FACS assays through VEGF competition are shown in FIG. 18. As shown in FIG. 18, the K562 cells did not show a great change in the rate of positive cells, unlike the HUVEC cells. Although the reason is unclear, this is thought to be because the 6A6 antibody strongly binds to KDR expressed on the surface of the K562 cells or regulates the growth of the cells using the autocrine loop mechanism of VEGF/KDR(VEGFR-2), and thus if VEGF is externally treated, the expression of KDR in the K562 cells is induced, so that an increased amount of the KDR protein is expressed on the cell surface, and the 6A6-IgG signal is increased compared to before the VEGF is externally treated. Also, as shown in FIG. 19, it was seen that 6A6-IgG could bind the KDR of gleevec-resistant K562 cells (The Catholic University of Korea).

Example 13

Analysis of Inhibition of HUVEC Cell Proliferation by 6A6 Antibody

The inhibition of HUVEC cell proliferation by anti-KDR-IgG was analyzed using WST-1 reagent (Roche, Swiss). HUVEC cells were dispensed into each well of a gelatin-coated, 24-well culture plate at a concentration of 2×10^4 cells/well and cultured for 18 hours. Then, the cells were further cultured in serum-free M199 medium (Sigma-aldrich, USA) for 4 hours, and then 20 ng/ml of VEGF and various concentrations of 6A6 were added thereto. Then, the WST-1

reagent was added thereto according to the manufacturer's manual, and after 1 hour and 4 hours, the cells were measured for absorbance at 450 nm and 690 nm (FIG. 20).

As a result, when the HUVEC cells were treated with VEGF, the proliferation thereof was increased by about three times, but when the 6A6 antibody was added to the HUVEC cells, the proliferation of the cells was reduced in a concentration-dependent manner.

Example 14

Analysis of Effect of 6A6 Antibody on Inhibition of KDR and ERK Phosphorylation

Sufficiently grown HUVEC cells were cultured in 1% FBS-containing M199 medium for 6 hours, and then treated with VEGF and 6A6, IMC-1121 and 6C1 antibodies at various concentrations for 10 minutes. Then, the cells were lysed with 1 ml of lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 2 mM EDTA, 137 mM NaCl, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 1 mM PMSF, 10% glycerol, 1% Triton X-100) and centrifuged, and the supernatant was treated with 1 µg/ml of an anti-KDR/Flk-1 antibody (Santa cruz Biotechnology, USA) at 4° C. for 3 hours. The treated supernatant was incubated on protein-A agarose 25 beads (Sigma-aldrich, USA) for 1 hour, and the immunoprecipitated protein was electrophoresed on SDS-PAGE, and then analyzed by Western blot (FIG. 21A).

As a result, it was observed that, when the cells were treated with VEGF, the phosphorylation of KDR was ³⁰ increased as expected, but the cells were treated with 6A6 or IMC-1121, the phosphorylation of KDR by VEGF was inhibited. Also, the 6C1 antibody had no effect on the neutralization of VEGF.

According to the above-described method, a test was carried out to examine whether the phosphorylation of the kinase ERK known to receive the signal of KDR would be inhibited. As a result, it was confirmed that 6A6 and IMC-1121 inhibited the phosphorylation of ERK, but 6C1 did not substantially inhibit the phosphorylation of ERK as expected (FIG. 40 21B).

Example 15

Analysis of Inhibitory Effect of Anti-KDR-6A6 IgG on the Chemotaxis of Endothelial Cells Induced by VEGF

In order to examine the inhibitory effect of 6A6-IgG on the migration of HUVEC cells induced by VEGF, a transwell 50 (Corning costar, USA) having a 6.5-mm-diameter polycarbonate filter (8 µM pore size) was used. The surface of the lower layer of the filter was coated with 10 µg of gelatin, and fresh M199 medium (containing 1% FBS) and VEGF were placed in the lower layer well of the filter. HUVEC cells were 55 diluted in M199 medium (containing 1% FBS) at a concentration of 1×10^6 /ml, various concentrations of the anti-KDR antibodies were added thereto and allowed to react at room temperature for 30 minutes. 100 µl of the reaction solution was placed in the upper layer well and allowed to react at 37° C. for 4 hours. Then, the cells were stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Non-migrated cells were removed with cotton, and cells migrated into the lower layer well were observed with a microscope to measure the number of the migrated cells. As a result, it was observed that the migration of HUVEC cells 65 induced by VEGF was inhibited by 6A6 in a concentrationdependent manner (FIG. 22).

42

Example 16

Analysis of Inhibitory Effect of Anti-KDR-6A6 IgG on Endothelial Cell Tube Formation Induced by VEGF

In order to examine whether the 6A6 antibody inhibits HUVEC tube formation induced by VEGF, 250 µl of growth factor-reduced matrigel (Collaborative biomedical products, USA) was placed in each well of a 16-mm-diameter tissue culture plate and polymerized at 37° C. for 30 minutes. HUVEC cells were suspended in M199 medium (containing 1% FBS), and various amounts of the antibody was mixed and allowed to react with the cells. After 30 minutes, the cells were plated on the matrigel at a concentration of 2×10⁵ cells/well, 10 ng/ml of VEGF was added thereto, and the cells were cultured for 20 hours. The cultured cells were observed with a microscope and imaged with an Image-Pro plus (Media cybernetics, USA). As a result, it was observed that HUVEC tube formation induced by VEGF was inhibited by 6A6-IgG (FIG. 23).

Example 17

Inhibition of VEGF-KDR Internalization by Binding of 6A6 Antibody to KDR on Cell Surface

HUVEC cells were placed on a gelatin-coated cover slip at a concentration of 2×10^4 cells/well, after 24 hours, the cells were washed twice with M199 medium and cultured in M199 medium (containing 1% FBS) for 6 hours. The HUVEC cells were allowed to react with various concentrations of the antibody for 30 minutes and allowed to react with 10 ng/ml of VEGF for 10 minutes. After the completion of the reaction, the cells were immobilized and infiltrated with methanol or 2% formaldehyde for 10 minutes and washed with PBS. Then, the cells were blocked with 0.1% Triton X-100 and 2% BSA/PBS for 30 minutes, and the cells were allowed to react with a mouse KDR antibody for 1 hour, and then allowed to react with an FITC-labeled anti-mouse antibody at room temperature for 45 minutes. The cover slip was mounted with SloFade (Molecular Probe) and observed with a confocal microscope (Zeiss, Germany) at 488 nm (excitation wavelength).

As a result, as shown in FIG. **24**, it was observed that the 6A6 antibody inhibited the infiltration of KDR into cells, and 6G1 did not substantially inhibit the infiltration of KDR into cells

Example 18

Ex Vivo Analysis of Inhibitory Effect of Anti-KDR-IgG on Angiogenesis

In order to examine whether 6A6-IgG inhibits aortic ring vessel sprouting induced by VEGF, an aortic ring assay was performed. First, arteries were separated from 6-week-old rats (Sprague Dawley), and then cut to a size of about 0.5 mm. The cut artery was placed on 120 μl of a matrigel-coated, 48-well plate and covered with 50 μl of matrigel. VEGF (10 ng/ml) and each of 6A6-IgG, 6C1-IgG and 1121-IgG were mixed with human endothelial serum-free medium (Invitrogen) to a final volume of 200 μl , and the mixture was placed in each well of the plate. After 6 days, the cells were immobilized and stained with Diff-Quick (Baxter Diagnostics). Data were rated on a scale of 0 (least positive) to 5 (most positive), and six independent tests were performed. FIG.

25A shows a vessel sprouting image, and FIG. 25B shows the statistical results of scores for vessel sprouting. The 6A6 antibody inhibited vessel sprouting induced by VEGF, but the 6C1 antibody did not show the inhibitory ability. The above-described ex vivo rat aortic ring assay results have a very important meaning in addition to the simple fact that 6A6 inhibits angiogenesis induced by VEGF. That is, the results revealed that 6A6 could bind to Flk-1 to neutralize the human KDR homologue Flk-1 expressed in rats, although it was prepared for the purpose of neutralizing human KDR. In other words, it can be seen that the 6A6 antibody has cross-reactivity between humans and rats.

Example 19

Effect of 6A6 on Inhibition of In Vivo Angiogenesis Induced by VEGF (In Vivo Mouse Matrigel Plug Assay)

Following the rat aortic ring assay, a mouse matrigel plug 20 assay was performed in order to examine whether the human KDR neutralizing antibody 6A6 can inhibit angiogenesis induced by VEGF in vivo in mice. For this purpose, 6-8week-old C57/BL6 mice were subcutaneously injected with 0.6 ml of matrigel, containing 200 µg of the antibody, 100 ng 25 of VEGF and 10 units of heparin. After 7 days, the matrigel plug was taken out by surgery, and the image thereof was photographed (FIG. 26A). Then, the plug was rapidly frozen with liquid nitrogen in the presence of an OCT (optimum cutting temperature) compound and cut to a thickness of 8-12 30 μm. The cut plug was fixed with 4% neutral buffered paraformaldehyde, and the density of the microvessels was measured with an anti-CD31 antibody (FIG. 26B). It was observed that the 6A6 antibody could inhibit blood vessel formation induced by VEGF in vivo in mice. Like the rat ex 35 vivo experiment, it was confirmed again that the 6A6 antibody could neutralize the mouse KDR homologue Flk-1 and had cross-reactivity between humans and mice. Among therapeutic antibodies, a KDR antibody having cross-reactivity between humans and mice has not yet been reported. When 40 the species cross-reactivity of the 6A6 antibody is used, the in vivo effect of the antibody can be confirmed using mice or rats.

Example 20

Anti-Cancer Effect of 6A6 Antibody in Colon Cancer Xenograft Animal Model

The anticancer effect of the 6A6 antibody in colon cancer 50 xenograft animal models was analyzed using T cell-, B cell- and NK cell-deleted NOD/SCID IL-2R null mice (female, 11-week-old, weighed 25 g, The Jackson Laboratories, USA) known to have an advantage that the cells more easily receive human cancer cells, compared to NOD/SCID mice. 55

As human cancer cells, human colon cancer cells known as HCT116 (ATCC, USA) were used, and the injection of the tumor cells was performed by injecting the cells subcutaneously into the left side of the mice at a concentration of 2×10^5 cells (serum-free DMEM)/10 μ l at day 0.

The 6A6 antibody was injected intravenously into the mice from day 1 (24 hours from day 0 at which the tumor cells were injected) three times a week. The mice were divided into three groups, each consisting of 5 animals. The group 1 was a PBS-injected group (control group), the group 2 was injected $_{65}$ with $100\,\mu\text{g/ea}\,(=4\,\text{mg/kg})$ of the 6A6 antibody, and the group 3 was injected with $200\,\mu\text{g/ea}\,(=8\,\text{mg/kg})$ of the 6A6 anti-

44

body. The size of a tumor occurring in the mice was measured according to the following equation on alternate days for 26 days:

Tumor volume=1/2×(length×area×height).

At day 30, the mice were sacrificed, and the weight of a tumor was measured. As a result, it was observed that the tumor size was dose-dependently reduced in the groups administered with the 6A6 antibody, compared to the control group injected with PBS (FIG. 27 and FIG. 28).

Example 21

Anti-Cancer Effect of 6A6 Antibody in Lung Cancer Xenograft Animal Models

Human lung cancer A549 cells (ATCC, USA) were injected subcutaneously into nude mice (Japan SLC, Japan) at a concentration of 7×10^7 cells to form tumors. 10 days after the injection of the cancer cells, the tumors could be visually observed, and then the 6A6 antibody was injected intraperitoneally into the mice three times a week.

The mice were divided into three groups, each consisting of five animals. The group 1 was a PBS-injected group (control group), the group 2 was injected with 1 mg/kg of the 6A6 antibody, and the group 3 was injected with 1 mg/kg of Avastin (Genentech, USA). As a result, as can be seen in FIG. 29, the growth of the tumor was inhibited in the group injected with the 6A6 antibody and the positive control group injected with Avastin, compared to the control group injected with PBS.

Example 22

In Vivo Tumor Targeting of Radioactive Iodine-Labeled 6A6 Antibody

The tumor targeting of the 6A6 antibody was analyzed using the binding affinity of the antibody to CML (chronic myelogenous leukemia) K562 cells. The antibody was labeled with radioactive iodine-125 using an iodobead method to label more than 90% of the antibody with iodine (FIG. 30A), and an anti-KDR (6A6) antibody labeled with radioactive iodine having a purity of more than 98% was prepared (FIG. 30B). A CML tumor model was prepared by injecting K562 cells subcutaneously into Balb/c nude mice, and when the tumor size reached 1 cm at 21-28 days after the injection of the K562 cells, the iodine-125-labeled antibody (100 μg) was injected into the tail vein of the K562 tumor model nude mice. 2 hour and 24 hours after the injection of the antibody, gamma-camera images of animals having tumors formed therein were obtained. It was observed that the introduction of the antibody into the tumors showed similar patterns at 2 hours and 24 hours, and the background radioactivity was reduced after 24 hours. It was observed that the antibody was localized to the tumor, suggesting that KDR 55 was expressed on the K562 tumor. Thus, due to the therapeutic effect of the antibody itself by localization, as well as due to an increase in the therapeutic effect caused by beta-rays emitted from the radioactive isotope, the antibody can possibly be used as a radioimmunotherapy agent (FIG. 31).

Example 23

60

Affinity Maturation of 6A6-IgG Using Light Chain Shuffling

In order to identify antibodies having an affinity higher than that of 6A6, a heavy chain was removed from the DNA

of the complete human antibody library, prepared in Example 2, using restriction enzyme SfiI. Into the site from which the heavy chain has been removed, a heavy chain of pAK-6A6 treated with SfiI restriction enzyme was inserted. The resulting DNA was transformed into ETB (Electro Ten blue) cells 5 (Stratagene, USA), and the cells were cultured in SOB medium for 1 hour. Then, the cells were spread on a 2×YT (Cm) square plate, and the next day, the colony was collected and stored at -70° C. As a result, a 6A6 light chain shuffling library having a diversity of 4×10^{6} was constructed (FIG. 32). 10

In order to examine whether the light chain shuffling of the library has been successfully achieved, 48 clones were randomly selected, and the light chain sequences thereof were analyzed. As a result, there was no overlap in the light chain sequences of the 48 clones.

From the library, clones having a binding affinity higher than that of 6A6 were screened in the same manner as in Example 3 through a biopanning process using a phage display.

18 candidates were finally obtained through the following 20 procedures.

(1) In order to prevent 6A6 from being selected again during the biopanning process, the DNA of the 6A6 light chain shuffling library was treated with a restriction enzyme SpeI having a recognition site at the CDR3 of 6A6. After the 25 DNA was transformed into ETB cells, a sub-library was constructed based on the cultured cells, and the KDR affinity of the sub-library was analyzed in ELISA. Among candidates resulting from the fourth panning, 94 candidates were selected and subjected to KDR binding assays in the same manner as in Example 5. Among candidates showing positive responses, 4 candidates were randomly selected, and the DNA sequences thereof were determined. Also, the candidates were subjected to VEGF competition assays using the respective phages (FIG. 33). As a result, 4SD5, 4SC3 and 4SC5, which had KDR neutralizing ability similar to equal to 35 that of the positive control group 6A6, were selected.

(2) In a washing step in the biopanning process, KE3, KE6, 2KG8, 3KE11, 3KF11, 3KG3 and K3F1 were selected through competition with soluble KDR. The biopanning process used herein was as follows.

Maxisorp Star tubes (Nunc, Denmark) were coated with 4 ml of KDR (5 $\mu g/ml)$ and blocked with 2% skimmed milk/ PBS at 37° C. for 2 hours. Then, 500 μl of the 6A6 light chain shuffling library phage suspended in 2% skimmed milk was allowed to bind to the KDR, and then allowed to react in 0.1% 45 PBS-T (tween20) for 1 hour. Then, the tubes were washed 10 times with 0.1% PBST and washed 10 times with PBS buffer. Then, 4 ml of soluble KDR (25 $\mu g/ml/PBS)$ was added and allowed to bind thereto for 30 minutes, and the tubes were treated with 100 mM triethylamine for 10 minutes to elute the phage. The eluted phage was neutralized with 500 μl of 1M Tris-Cl (pH7.5) and transformed into E. coli XL1-Blue cells for 50 minutes, and then the cells were cultured.

The antibodies selected in each of the three panning steps were subjected to VEGF competition assays in a ScFv-phage particle state. Among four candidate antibodies obtained through the first panning, KE3 and KE6, having high VEGF competitive power compared to those of the other candidate antibodies, were selected, and KC7 and KQ11 were excluded (FIG. 34A). Among three candidate antibodies obtained through the second panning, 2KE5 having low VEGF competitive power was excluded, and the remaining 2KG4 and 2KG8, having VEGF competitive power similar to that of 6A6, were selected. The 2KG4 showed the same sequence as 3KG3, an antibody selected later, and thus it was substituted with 3KG3 (FIG. 34B).

Among five candidate antibodies obtained through the third panning, 3KG2 and 3KF7, having low competitive 46

power, were excluded, and only 3KE11, 3KF11 and 3KG3 were selected (FIG. **34**C). Similarly, K3F1 obtained through the third panning was selected, and K3F1 showed a significantly high VEGF competitive power compared to that of 6A6 (FIG. **34**D).

(3) In a step of allowing phage to bind to the antigen KDR in the biopanning process, IMC-1121 IgG obtained in Example 8 was also added and, as a result, 1E4, 3IG11, 3IG12, 31E1, 3IH2, I2F2, I3A12 and I3F2 clones were selected. The biopanning process used herein was as follows.

Maxisorp Star tubes (Nunc, Denmark) were coated with 4 ml of KDR (5 m/ml) and blocked with 2% skimmed milk/ PBS at 37° C. for 2 hours. Then, 500 μ l of the 6A6 light chain shuffling library phage suspended in 2% skimmed milk containing 21 μ g/ml of IMC-1121 IgG (0.14 μ M) was allowed to bind thereto for 1 hour, and then allowed to react in 0.1% PBST for 1 hour. Then, the tubes were washed 10 times with 0.1% PBST and washed with 10 times with PBS buffer. Then, 4 ml of soluble KDR (25 μ g/ml/PBS) was added to the tubes and allowed to bind for 30 minutes, and then treated with 100 mM triethylamine for 10 minutes to elute the phage. The eluted phage was neutralized with 500 μ l of 1M Tris-Cl (pH 7.5), and then transformed into *E. coli* XL1-Blue cells for 50 minutes, and the cells were cultured.

The antibodies selected in each of the three panning steps were subjected to VEGF competition assays in a ScFv-phage particle state. Among three candidate antibodies obtained through the first panning, only 1E4 having VEGF competitive power similar to that of 6A6 was selected (FIG. 35A). 1E4 was analyzed for the DNA sequence thereof and, as a result, 28 amino acids in 1E4 were different from those in 6A6. In addition, 6A6 had 108 light chain amino acids, whereas 1E4 had 107 amino acids, indicating that one amino acid was deleted in the CDR3 of 6A6.

FIG. 35B shows the results of VEGF competition assays of three candidate antibodies obtained through the third panning. In DNA sequencing, 3IG8 had a light chain sequence completely different from that of 6A6, and in the results of FACS, 3IG8 did not bind to living cells, indicating that it was not converted in the form of IgG. 31G11, 3IG12, 31E1 and 3IH2 were selected, and 3IA7 was excluded, because it had a stop codon in the light chain sequence. FIG. 35C shows the results of VEGF competition assays of candidate antibodies obtained through the second panning and the third panning. 3IA12, I3F2 and I2F2 were all selected.

The light chain DNA sequences of the 18 selected clones are shown in SEQ ID NO: 164 to SEQ ID NO: 181, and amino acid sequences deduced from the DNA sequences are shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 to SEQ ID NO: 19. Regions substituted compared to the light chain amino acid of 6A6 (TTAC-0001) are shown in Table 7. Also, the clones were renamed "TTAC-0002 to TTAC-0019" (Table 8).

TABLE 7

55		Mutation site of 18 selected clones
	Clone name	Mutation site
	KE3	S13A, R23G, L27I, D29S, V30Q, N31S
60	(TTAC-0002)	GIAL BLOG BASC MACE LAST BASS MANY MANY
	KE6	S13A, R19G, R23G, N26D, L27I, D29S, V30K, N31S,
	(TTAC-0003)	R38K, M47I, A51S
	IE4	N1S, F2Y, M3E, V12S, S13A, R19T, R23E, D25K,
	(TTAC-0004)	L27I, D29S, V30K, N31S, R38K, V46L,
		M47I, A51Q, G56A, G67D, T69M, G76R, E78A, D91G,
		R92N, T93G, S94K, E95V, T99G, V103L
65	SD5	S13A, T100A
	(TTAC-0005)	,

20

TABLE 7-continued

48 TABLE 8-continued

New name of antibodies developed

Mutation site of 18 selected clones				
Clone name	Mutation site			
2KG8	S13A			
(TTAC-0006)				
3KE11	T71I			
(TTAC-0007)				
3KF11	P8S			
(TTAC-0008)				
3KG3	P8H			
(TTAC-0009)				
3IG11	V46I			
(TTAC-0010)				
3IG12	R23M			
(TTAC-0011)				
3IE1	P8S, S13P, P39R, Y96F			
(TTAC-0012)				
3IH2	V12L, K16Q			
(TTAC-0013)				
K3F1	S13A, K16Q			
(TTAC-0014)				
I2F2	S9A			
(TTAC-0015)				
I3A12	E59K			
(TTAC-0016)				
I3F2	M47I			
(TTAC-0017)				
4SC3	S94N			
(TTAC-0018)				
4SC5	N1Q, M3V, S13A, R23G, D25N, L27I, D29S, V30K,			
(TTAC-0019)	N318, R38K, M47I, A518, S66F, G76R, R928, T938, S94R, E95D			

TABLE 8

New name of antiboo	nes developed
Name of antibodies	
developed	New name
6A6	TTAC-0001
KE3	TTAC-0002
KE6	TTAC-0003
IE4	TTAC-0004

Name of antibodies developed	New name
SD5	TTAC-0005
2KG8	TTAC-0006
3KE11	TTAC-0007
3KF11	TTAC-0008
3KG3	TTAC-0009
3IG11	TTAC-0010
3IG12	TTAC-0011
3IE1	TTAC-0012
3IH2	TTAC-0013
K3F1	TTAC-0014
I2F2	TTAC-0015
I3A12	TTAC-0016
I3F2	TTAC-0017
4SC3	TTAC-0018
4SC5	TTAC-0019

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described in detail above, the present invention provides a fully human antibody, which has an excellent ability to neutralize VEGF receptor in cells and in vivo, and a composition for inhibiting angiogenesis and a composition for treating cancer, which contain said antibody. The inventive 6A6 antibody neutralizing vascular endothelial growth factor receptor shows excellent neutralizing ability in living cells, compared to that of a commercially available antibody against vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, and shows the ability to neutralize vascular endothelial growth factor receptor not only in humans, but also in mice and rats. Thus, the 6A6 antibody will be useful in anticancer studies and will be highly effective in cancer treatment.

Although the present invention has been described in detail with reference to the specific features, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that this description is only for a preferred embodiment and does not limit the scope of the present invention. Thus, the substantial scope of the present invention will be defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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Tyr Asp Ala Asp Arg Pro Ser Gly Ile Pro Glu Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser
Asn Ser Gly Asn Thr Ala Thr Leu Thr Ile Ser Gly Val Glu Ala Gly
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Tyr Asp Ala Asp Arg Pro Ser Gly Ile Pro Glu Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser
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Tyr Asp Ser Asp Arg Pro Ser Gly Ile Pro Glu Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser
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Asn 65	Ser	Asp	Asn	Met	Ala 70	Thr	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ser 75	Arg	Val	Ala	Ala	Gly 80
Asp	Glu	Ala	Asp	Tyr 85	Tyr	Cys	Gln	Val	Trp 90	Gly	Asn	Gly	Lys	Val 95	Val
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His	Trp	Tyr 35	Gln	Gln	Arg	Pro	Gly 40	Gln	Ala	Pro	Val	Leu 45	Val	Met	Tyr
Tyr	Asp 50	Ala	Asp	Arg	Pro	Ser 55	Gly	Ile	Pro	Glu	Arg 60	Phe	Ser	Gly	Ser
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His	Trp	Tyr 35	Gln	Gln	Arg	Pro	Gly 40	Gln	Ala	Pro	Val	Leu 45	Val	Met	Tyr
Tyr	Asp 50	Ala	Asp	Arg	Pro	Ser 55	Gly	Ile	Pro	Glu	Arg 60	Phe	Ser	Gly	Ser
Asn 65	Ser	Gly	Asn	Thr	Ala 70	Thr	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ser 75	Gly	Val	Glu	Ala	Gly 80
Asp	Glu	Ala	Asp	Tyr 85	Tyr	Cys	Gln	Val	Trp 90	Asp	Arg	Thr	Ser	Glu 95	Tyr

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Tyr Asp Ala Asp Arg Pro Ser Gly Ile Pro Glu Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser
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Ser Tyr Trp Met His
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cctggacaac gccttgagtg gatgggagag attaatcctg gcaacggtca tactaactac
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aacgagaagt tcaagtcacg cgtgacaatc actgtagaca aatccgcgag cacagcctac
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tca
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1260

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Gly Ala Glu Val Lys Lys Pro Gly Ala Ser Val Lys Leu Ser Cys Lys 35 40 45	
Ala Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe Ser Ser Tyr Trp Met His Trp Val Arg Gln 50 55 60	
Ala Pro Gly Gln Arg Leu Glu Trp Met Gly Glu Ile Asn Pro Gly Asn 65 70 75 80	
Gly His Thr Asn Tyr Asn Glu Lys Phe Lys Ser Arg Val Thr Ile Thr 85 90 95	
Val Asp Lys Ser Ala Ser Thr Ala Tyr Met Glu Leu Ser Ser Leu Arg 100 105 110	
Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Lys Ile Trp Gly Pro Ser 115 120 125	
Leu Thr Ser Pro Phe Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Leu Val Thr Val 130 135 140	
Ser Ser Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Ala Ser Thr Lys Gly Pro Ser Val Phe 145 150 155 160	
Pro Leu Ala Pro Ser Ser Lys Ser Thr Ser Gly Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu 165 170 175	
Gly Cys Leu Val Lys Asp Tyr Phe Pro Glu Pro Val Thr Val Ser Trp 180 185 190	
Asn Ser Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Gly Val His Thr Phe Pro Ala Val Leu 195 200 205	
Gln Ser Ser Gly Leu Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Val Val Thr Val Pro Ser 210 215 220	
Ser Ser Leu Gly Thr Gln Thr Tyr Ile Cys Asn Val Asn His Lys Pro 225 230 235 240	
Ser Asn Thr Lys Val Asp Lys Arg Val Glu Pro Lys Ser Cys Asp Lys 245 250 255	
Thr His Thr Cys Pro Pro Cys Pro Ala Pro Glu Leu Leu Gly Gly Pro 260 265 270	
Ser Val Phe Leu Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp Thr Leu Met Ile Ser 275 280 285	
Arg Thr Pro Glu Val Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp Val Ser His Glu Asp 290 295 300	
Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Asn Trp Tyr Val Asp Gly Val Glu Val His Asn 305 310 315 320	

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Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp Leu Asn Gly Lys Glu
Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Ala Leu Pro Ala Pro Ile Glu Lys
Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu Pro Gln Val Tyr Thr
Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Asp Glu Leu Thr Lys Asn Gln Val Ser Leu Thr
Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Ser Asp Ile Ala Val Glu Trp Glu
Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr Thr Pro Pro Val Leu
Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys Leu Thr Val Asp Lys
Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys Ser Val Met His Glu
Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu Ser Leu Ser Pro Gly
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cageggeeag geeaggeece tgtattggte atgtattatg atgeegaeeg geeeteaggg
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Ser	Val	Ser 35	Val	Ser	Pro	Gly	Lys 40	Thr	Ala	Arg	Ile	Thr 45	Cys	Arg	Gly		
Asp	Asn 50	Leu	Gly	Asp	Val	Asn 55	Val	His	Trp	Tyr	Gln 60	Gln	Arg	Pro	Gly		
Gln 65	Ala	Pro	Val	Leu	Val 70	Met	Tyr	Tyr	Asp	Ala 75	Asp	Arg	Pro	Ser	Gly 80		
Ile	Pro	Glu	Arg	Phe 85	Ser	Gly	Ser	Asn	Ser 90	Gly	Asn	Thr	Ala	Thr 95	Leu		
Thr	Ile	Ser	Gly 100	Val	Glu	Ala	Gly	Asp		Ala	Asp	Tyr	Tyr 110		Gln		
Val	Trp	Asp 115			Ser	Glu	Tyr 120		Phe	Gly	Thr			Lys	Val		
Thr			Gly	Gly	Gly	Ala		Leu	Val	Glu		125 Ser	Val	Ala	Ala		
	130 Ser	Val	Phe	Ile		135 Pro	Pro	Ser	Asp		140 Gln	Leu	Lys	Ser			
145 Thr	Ala	Ser	Val	Val	150 Cys	Leu	Leu	Asn	Asn	155 Phe	Tyr	Pro	Arg	Glu	160 Ala		
				165	•	Asp			170		•		Ĭ	175			
			180	-				185					190				
Glu	Ser	Val 195	Thr	Glu	Gln	Asp	Ser 200		Asp	Ser	Thr	Tyr 205	Ser	Leu	Ser		
Ser	Thr 210	Leu	Thr	Leu	Ser	Lys 215	Ala	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Lys 220	His	Lys	Val	Tyr		
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Phe	Asn	Arg	Gly	Glu 245	Сув												
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			_	_											ccaggc gctcgc	120 180	
															gctgaa	240	
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acaa	aagtt	egg a	aaata	aaaa												318	
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cagaggcctg aacagggcct ggagtggatt ggatggattg atcctgagaa tggtgattct
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                                                                      780
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                                                                      300
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agacteteet gtgeageete tggatteace tteagtaget atageatgaa etgggteege	180
caggetecag ggaagggget ggagtgggte teatecatta gtagtagtag tagttacata	240
tactacgcag actcagtgaa gggccgattc accatctcca gagacaacgc caagaactca	300

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ctgtatctgc aaatgaacag tctgagagcc gaggacacgg ccgtgtatta ctgtgcgaga
                                                                       360
gtcacagatg cttttgatat ctggggccaa gggacaatgg tcaccgtctc ctcaggcctc
                                                                       420
gggggcctcg gaggaggagg tagtggcgga ggaggctccg gtggatccag cggtgtgggt
                                                                       480
tecgacatee agatgaceea gtetecatet teegtgtetg catetatagg agacagagte
                                                                       540
accatcactt gtcgggcgag tcagggtatt gacaactggt taggctggta tcagcagaaa
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cctgggaaag cccctaaact cctgatctac gatgcatcca atttggacac aggggtccca
tcaaggttca gtggaagtgg atctgggaca tattttactc tcaccatcag tagcctgcaa
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gctgaagatt ttgcagttta tttctgtcaa caggctaaag cttttcctcc cactttcggc
ggagggacca aggtggacat caaacgtgga ggagccagcc tcgtggaatt cgagcagaag
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer
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<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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ctcttctga
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<220> FEATURE:
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                                                                      120
caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttototggot ccaactotgg gaacacggoc acactgacca tcagoggagt cgaagcoggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt
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<211> LENGTH: 324
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223 > OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0003 (KE6)
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                                                                      120
acctgtgggg gagacgacat tggaagtaaa agtgtgcact ggtaccagca gaagccaggc
caggcccctg tgttggtcat ctattatgat agcgaccggc cctcagggat ccctqagcga
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ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0004 (IE4)
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acctgtgagg gaaagaacat tggcagtaaa agtgtgcact ggtaccagca gaagccaggc
                                                                      120
caggecectg tgctgctcat ttattatgat caagacegge ceteagegat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttetetgget ccaactetga caacatggee accetgacea teageegggt egeageeggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggctg actattactg tcaggtgtgg ggcaacggca aagtggtgtt cggcggaggg
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accaagetga cegteetagg t
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
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caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geogaeegge eeteggggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggagct
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
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caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geogaeegge eeteggggat eeetgagega
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggagct
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gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TAC-0007 (3KE11)
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
                                                                      120
caggeeeetg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc atactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0008 (3KF11)
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagcaggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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<400> SEQUENCE: 171
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
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caggeeeetg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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acttqtaqqq qaqataacct tqqaqatqta aatqttcact qqtaccaqca qcqqccaqqc
                                                                      120
caggeeectg tattgateat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
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ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
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gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
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ttetetgget ccaactetgg gaacaeggee acaetgaeea teageggagt egaageeggg
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gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0012 (3IE1)
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggcgaggc
                                                                      120
caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geogaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtttgt cttcggaact
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<210> SEQ ID NO 175 <211> LENGTH: 324

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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0013 (3IH2)
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acttgtaggg gagacaacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
                                                                      120
caggeeeetg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
ttetetgget ceaactetgg gaacaeggee acaetgaeca teageggagt egaageeggg
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gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt
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<220> FEATURE:
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                                                                      120
caggeeeetg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
                                                                      180
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
                                                                      240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact
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caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega
ttctctggct ccaactctgg gaacacggcc acactgacca tcagcggagt cgaagccggg
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: antibody light chain sequence TTAC-0016 (I3A12)
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acttgtaggg gagataacct tggagatgta aatgttcact ggtaccagca gcggccaggc
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caggecectg tattggteat gtattatgat geogaeegge eeteagggat eectaagega
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ttetetgget ecaactetgg gaacaeggee acaetgaeea teageggagt egaageeggg 240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact 300
gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt 324
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caggcccctg tattggtcat ttattatgat gccgacaggc cctcagggat ccctgagcga 180
ttetetgget ceaactetgg gaacaeggee acaetgacea teageggagt egaageeggg 240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta gtgagtatgt cttcggaact 300
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caggecectg tattagteat gtattatgat geogaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega 180
ttetetgget ccaaetetgg gaacaeggee acaetgaeea teageggagt egaageeggg 240
gatgaggccg actactattg tcaggtgtgg gataggacta atgagtatgt cttcggaact 300
gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt 324
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caggeceetg tgetggteat etattatgat agegaeegge eeteagggat eeetgagega 180
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gatgaggccg actattattg tcaggtttgg gatagtagtc gtgattatgt cttcggaact 300
gggaccaagg tcaccgtcct aggt 324

The invention claimed is:

- 1. A single chain variable fragment (ScFv) molecule com
 - a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid 65 sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 6, 10 and 11, and
- a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20, wherein the ScFv molecule functions to neutralize vascular
- endothelial growth factor receptor.

 2. A composition for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising the ScFv molecule of claim 1.

 $3.\,\mathrm{A}$ composition for treating cancer comprising the ScFv molecule of claim 1.

- 4. An IgG antibody comprising:
- a light chain variable region comprising the an amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 6, 10 and 11, 5 and
- a heavy chain variable region comprising the an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
- wherein the antibody functions to neutralize vascular endothelial growth factor receptor.
- **5**. A composition for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising the IgG antibody of claim **4**.
- 6. A composition for treating cancer comprising the IgG antibody of claim 4.

* * * *